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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
AUSTIN DOBSON'S AT THE SIGN OF THE LYRE, by J. A. SYMONDS	290
SIR H. MAINE'S POPULAR GOVERNMENT, by A. W. BENN	300
THE JOURNAL OF MARY FRAMPTON, by the Rev. C. J. ROBINSON	301
TENNANT'S SARDINIA AND ITS RESOURCES, by Dr. R. BROWN	302
NEW NOVELS, by W. SHARP	302
GIFT BOOKS	304
NOTES AND NEWS	306
AMERICAN JOTTINGS	306
A TRANSLATION: "TO THE READER," by I. O. L.	307
MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS	307
SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS	307
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Coleridge's MS. Notes on Malthus, by J. BONAR; University College and the University of London, by Prof. E. Ray Lankester; John Harvard's Autograph, by E. S. Shuckburgh; "Milton and Fendel," by J. R. Macfarlane	307
APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK	309
THE LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE OF AGASSIZ, by GRANT ALLEN	309
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Archduke Rainer's Collection of Papyri, by Prof. G. BÜHLER	310
SCIENCE NOTES	310
PHILOLOGY NOTES	311
MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES	311
SOME WINTER EXHIBITIONS	312
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Foundations of the Campanile of St. Mark at Venice, by J. H. Middleton; Roman Inscriptions at Whitley Castle and South Shields, by W. Thompson Watkin	312
NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY	313
THE STAGE	313
RECENT CONCERTS, by J. S. SHEDLOCK	313

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At the Sign of the Lyre. By Austin Dobson. (Kegan Paul, Trench, & Co.)

ONLY a churl, or one indifferent to what is delicate in literature, could find words of censure for this collection of graceful lyrics, so exquisitely finished with accomplished art, so characteristic of their author's genius in the subtle blending of gentle pathos and light humour, so just in criticism both of manners and of letters, so marked by solid English sense amid the refinements of highly studied versification and the quaintnesses of scholarly archaisms. We hail this volume, together with its elder brother, *Old-World Idylls*, as one of the most perfect products of that latest Anglo-Gallic culture, to which English literature is also indebted for Mr. Lang's *Ballades* and *Rhymes à la Mode*, as well as for some of Mr. Edmund Gosse's most artistic work.

Mr. Dobson is so well known as a poet wherever English is spoken that it would be superfluous to dwell at length upon the salient features of his style. Like Caldicott and Edwin Abbey, he has lived by imagination into the spirit of the eighteenth century. Of the manners and mental atmosphere of that period he reproduces in his verse all that is fanciful, urbane, capricious, omitting its grossness and passing with a genial toleration over its darker aspects. The London of Vauxhall and Grub Street, of the Mall and the Ridotto, has become familiar to him not so much in its prosaic reality as in a vision of delightful fairyland. This volume adds a dozen highly finished masterpieces, cabinet pictures of perfect tone and execution, to the gallery of Georgian studies in which our artist excels. The most enjoyable of these, to my mind, are "The Old Sedan Chair," "Molly Trefusis," "The Book-Plate's Petition," "A Familiar Epistle," "The Dilettant," "The Squire at Vauxhall," and "A New Song of Spring Gardens." If I mistake not, these are already so well known to American and English readers that any detailed analysis of their old-world graces would be an impertinence; yet I cannot refrain from calling attention to the consummate skill with which an empty-pated connoisseur of the last century is sketched in "The Dilettant."

"Just then popped in a passing Beau,
Half Pertness, half Puerilio;
One of those Mushroom Growths that spring
From *Grand Tours* and from Tailoring;
And dealing much in terms of Art
Picked up at Sale and Auction Mart."

The fellow has at his fingers' ends all the cant phrases of a by-gone age of aesthetic affectation, which, though obsolete now, could easily be paralysed by like ephemeral inepti-

tudes from the slang of South Kensington coteries:

"That 'Air of Head' is just divine;
That contour Guido, every line;
That forearm, too, has quite the *Gusto*
Of the third Manner of Robusto. . . ."

He glibly hazards more technical criticisms:

"The middle Distance, too, is placed
Quite in the best Italian Taste;
And nothing could be more effective
Than the *Ordonnance* and *Perspective*."

In short, he is a living epitome of what Mrs. Malaprop called "bigotry and virtue"; and since some incarnation of the "bigotry and virtue" in fashion must be always with us, this admirable creation of the poet will last not only as the portrait of an extinct species of fop, but as the symbol of aesthetic humbug for all ages.

Mr. Dobson is so steeped in the atmosphere of his favourite period that he prefers to cast his didactic or genially satiric pieces in the form of that century. "The Two Painters," "The Claims of the Muse," and "The Successful Author," lose none of their point and application by the antiquated setting he has given them. Even that finely-edged piece of modern sarcasm, "The Poet and the Critics," while reproducing contemporary commonplaces of hack-criticism, is tricked out with the quaint use of capitals and the apt allusions to our classic age of Anne which betray its author's predilections.

Still, it must not be thought that the eighteenth century in England is the only paradise of Mr. Dobson's fancy. He is almost equally, almost as pleasurably, at home in old and modern France. "The Curé's Progress" is a gem of sympathetic portraiture, while "A Revolutionary Relic" transports us to the chateau life of Touraine and the tragedies of the Terror. If English song-books inspired the two evanescently suggestive opening lines of "A Madrigal"—

"Before me careless lying,
Young Love his wares comes crying"—

we may welcome an even rarer reproduction of French literary charm in "A Fancy from Fontenelle." There is, indeed, nothing in the book which takes my fancy by its masterly workmanship and restrained pathos more than this. Pity that a place was not found for it in Mrs. Boyle's anthology from the rose-garden of the poets, *Ros Rosarum*! On Italian things, Mr. Dobson's touch does not strike me as quite so unerringly true; and the one original sonnet in the collection, "Don Quixote," exhibits less command of form than his rondeaus do.

The motto on the title-page of *At the Sign of the Lyre* is *leviore plectro*; and a pretty *jeu d'esprit*, entitled "A Roman Round-Robin," shows that the author is somewhat bored with Horace's moralisings. We look, indeed, in vain, for deep or serious matter in these lyrics, although a sound and wholesome philosophy of life, with much of shrewd world-wisdom, is conveyed in their subversive pleasantries. Yet one of the rondeaus strikes a deeper note. This little poem, besides being beautiful in form, reflects so fair a light upon the poet's aim that I am fain to transcribe it at length. Together with the "Fancy from Fontenelle," I feel sure that it will chain my

attention whenever I chance to turn the leaves of this book.

"In after days when grasses high
O'er-top the stone where I shall lie,
Though ill or well the world adjust
My slender claim to honoured dust,
I shall not question nor reply.

"I shall not see the morning sky;
I shall not hear the night-wind sigh;
I shall be mute, as all men must,
In after days!"

"But yet, now living, fain were I
That someone then should testify,
Saying, 'He held his pen in trust
To Art, not serving shame or lust.'
Will none? Then let my memory die
In after days!"

In his verses of society upon contemporary and personal or quasi-personal themes, Mr. Dobson shows that he has been an appreciative student of *Præd*, and not, perhaps, with the most felicitous results in all cases. The terse pruned couplets of Gay are surely more worthy of his genius than the jingle of which we have almost a disagreeable specimen in "Poor Miss Tox." There is a spavined canter in the rhythm, and not even Mr. Dobson's ingenuity in rhyming can reconcile the ear to a succession of stanzas ending in Tox. Why, oh, why, we keep saying, as we read, does he not make another set of stanzas on "frocks," "hooks," "rocks," and "pox," when he is about it?

The poems about little girls, which belong to this contemporary section of Mr. Dobson's verse, spring from a very real and amiable source of inspiration. Nothing can be imagined prettier than the portrait of "Little Blue-Ribbons," nothing more refreshingly anti-Philistine than "A Fairy Tale." The lines called "Household Art" seem to indicate that Mr. Dobson likes even little girls *à la mode du ci-devant*; for Ruskin's Lectures are scarcely less eulogistic of Miss Greenaway's artificial naturalism than are these verses. Ours is a singular age: so terribly in earnest, so utilitarian in its main energies; so fond of trifles and *rococo*, masquerade and *brio-à-brac*, day-dreams of a travestied past and castles in the air of half-assimilated antiquities, in its hours of leisure. To draw the conclusion that therefore this is not a creative age would be unjust. It is a learned and a scientific age, the inheritor of what remains of the whole culture of humanity to us wards. Those poets who breathe their own life-breath into puppets of the past, with adequate knowledge, intelligent sympathy, and just tact, are creative. It is not necessary to apply to Mr. Dobson's work Walt Whitman's austere dictum—"Poems distilled from other poems pass away." For he converts into living poetry a mood of sympathy with the past which is very real to him, and also to numbers of his contemporaries. Fine criticism, loving study, exquisite workmanship, and vivid vision are so subtly mingled here with sense, with fancy in its sphere not less alive than Keats's, and with a genuine droplet of what Mr. Dobson styles "The Lost Elixir," that some not all too friendly critic may safely prophecy a diuturnity in human memory for these light-winged things, *κοῦφα τινα καὶ πτηνά*, when heavier poets' wares are sunk in clay.

JOHN ADDINGTON SYMONDS.

Popular Government. By Sir Henry Sumner Maine. (Murray.)

THIS volume is a faggot of spent rockets. The four essays of which it is composed have been read by nearly everybody as articles in the *Quarterly Review*. Many will read them again in their collected form; but probably few will be as much impressed by the second reading as by the first. Some, at least, of these essays were, on their anonymous appearance, attributed to Lord Salisbury; but what was then high praise now seems like the bitterest satire. Nor would the satire be wholly undeserved. More ingenious than profound, more epigrammatic than original, more dazzling than persuasive, this work would be worthier of the present Prime Minister than of the author of *Ancient Law*.

It is true that in the preface to *Popular Government* Sir Henry Maine endeavours to establish a connexion between his earliest and his latest work. One object of the former was, as is well known, to show that the idea of natural law (in the ethical sense), while it has exercised a powerful influence on jurisprudence and politics, is itself so far from being "natural" that it demonstrably originated in a particular phase of Greek philosophy. And now we are told that the modern faith in democracy springs to a great extent from the same most powerful, but most delusive, idea. But hardly any attempt is subsequently made to substantiate this sweeping assertion, only ten pages out of 254 being devoted to the subject (pp. 152-162). Throughout the rest of the volume the arguments for and against the necessity or the advantages of democracy are given without any reference to a state of nature, real or supposed. The pleas in its favour are cited not from Rousseau, but from Bentham and De Tocqueville. In other words, they are utilitarian and historical; and, instead of pointing out that the primitive arrangements of society, even had they been democratic, which they were not, are valueless as a precedent for ourselves, Sir H. Maine labours to show that democracy is not necessarily the ultimate form of government, nor at any time a particularly desirable form. It cannot, indeed, escape the most superficial observation that both here and abroad the popular cause is made more and more to rest on grounds of expediency and experience. There is certainly one recent work which has much to tell us about natural rights, and at least an ideal social contract. But this work is not by a democratic thinker; and Sir Henry himself refers to it as the "admirable volume" of Mr. Herbert Spencer on *The Man versus the State* (p. 49).

There is, however, this much of unity in Sir H. Maine's teaching that—here as well as in *Ancient Law*—it is a protest against unreasoned convictions, a blow struck for freedom of thought against what may be merely phantasmal tyrants. As such it illustrates a characteristic note of English philosophy, which is nothing if not a school of individuality and fearless questioning of received opinions. So far, both political parties are interested in hearing what it has to tell us. If democracy is a bad thing, then it should be opposed or restrained by every fair means. If it is a good thing, it must be protected and promoted with unrelenting vigilance and energy.

In either case the attitude of lazy fatalism is the most mischievous conceivable.

On the other hand, what seems highly objectionable is the method pursued, which is that not of the philosopher, but of the lawyer, or even the sophist. The history of government is studied apart from the more general history of society and civilisation, with the result that the whole subject is thrown into uncertainty and confusion. Popular government on a large scale is, we are told, something very new. Towards the close of the last century it had proved, in most instances, more unstable than monarchy and aristocracy, and under the republican form was very generally discredited, even in America. By parity of reasoning, just as serious a case might be made out against citizen armies, which have only been employed on a great scale during the present century, while in antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, they failed to hold their own against mercenaries. Sir H. Maine is fond of quoting Aristotle; but he seems to have overlooked a very wise remark of the Stagirite's, to the effect that different polities are adapted to different social conditions. A popular, or at least a democratic, government cannot be worked except where there is a relatively high average of intelligence and education, combined with easy and rapid means of communication among the members of the state. Formerly these conditions were only realised in small communities. In course of time such communities came into collision with great territorial states governed by monarchs or aristocratic castes; and, although often victorious, finally succumbed in the unequal struggle. How vast a revolution has been effected by the representative system and the printing-press, the railway and the telegraph, needs only a moment's reflection to perceive. One is almost ashamed to bring forward such commonplaces; but the fault lies with those by whom they are ignored.

Again, Sir H. Maine appears to think that he has scored a point by triumphantly enforcing the proposition that democracy is a form of government. This seems a harmless truism enough until we find what interpretation is put on it. Just as monarchy means government by one and aristocracy government by a few, so also, we are informed, does democracy mean government by the many. It puts the people in the place of the king, and is an inverted monarchy. That there may be no misapprehension on this matter, the constitution of the United States is expressly referred to as an illustration (p. 60). "The advanced Radical politician of our day seems to have an impression that democracy differs from monarchy in essence. There can be no grosser mistake than this, and none more fertile in further delusions" (*ibid.*). The reader, whether an advanced Radical or not, will be surprised to find farther on that what the founders of the American constitution really put in the place of the king was not the people but the president (p. 211). He will then perhaps observe that the gross mistakes are not all on one side. The truth seems to be that wherever the ultimate source and sanction of power may be placed, the government of a state must always rest in the hands of a few, while the supreme initiative sometimes is, and sometimes is not, possessed

for lengthened periods by a single mind. This unity of initiative and direction may appear in all forms of government and under very different names, as it is wielded by a Pericles, a Caius Gracchus, a Frederic, a Pitt, a Nicholas, or a Lincoln. The real difference between democracy and all other forms of government is that it entails publicity, freedom of criticism, and responsibility of the rulers to the ruled; whereas despotism excludes these conditions, and the intermediate constitutions, while not necessarily excluding, do not necessarily imply them. And this, *pace* Sir H. Maine, seems to amount to an essential distinction; for publicity and responsibility tend to prevent the governing minority from abusing their power, and, while not incompatible with the successful conduct of great military operations, they harmonise with the requirements of an industrial and scientific society. In other words, the cause of democracy is identical with the cause of advancing civilisation.

Here, however, we are met by a hinted argument that democracy favours spoliation and stagnation, thus making war at once against industry and science. To some extent the one imputation neutralises the other. If, as Sir H. Maine contends at length, the mass of the people are averse from all change, they are most unlikely to sanction so momentous a change as the confiscation of property to any great extent would imply. To prove the likelihood of such confiscation, we have nothing but a passage from Mr. Labouchere (p. 43). Against it we have the fact that "a law establishing a progressive income tax was negatived under a Cantonal Referendum" in Switzerland (p. 96); and the assurance that the theories of Mr. Henry George have no chance of being realised in the United States (p. 248).

To prove the alleged hostility of the people to science, only a single fact is adduced:

"The central seat of all political economy was from the first occupied by the theory of population. This theory has now been generalised by Mr. Darwin and his followers, and stated as the principle of the survival of the fittest. It has become the central truth of all biological science. Yet it is evidently disliked by the multitude, and thrust into the background by those whom the multitude permits to lead it. It has long been intensely unpopular in France and the continent of Europe; and, among ourselves, proposals for recognising it through the relief of distress by emigration are visibly being supplemented by schemes founded on the assumption that, through legislative experiments on society, a given space of land may always be made to support in comfort the population which, from historical causes, has come to be settled on it" (p. 37).

On this it may be remarked that the theory of the survival of the fittest, while independent of the assumption that population tends to outrun the means of subsistence, would rather discourage state-aided emigration as helping the unfit, whereas a very democratic paper, the *Poll Mall Gazette*, strongly advocates it; that if the French regard Malthusianism with horror, their sentiments must, to say the least of it, differ very widely from their practice; and that the bulk of the higher classes are just as much opposed to any economical truth which conflicts with their interests as the multitude can be.

When Sir H. Maine enumerates a string of improvements which the majority of the English people would, according to him, have rejected under a *régime* of universal suffrage (p. 36), the democrats might answer that he is, against his own declared principle (p. 4), writing hypothetical history, and that the very effect of aristocratic government is to keep the people in that state of brutal ignorance from which they are extricated by democracy. Really, when one compares the attitude assumed towards certain scientific theories by the higher and lower classes respectively in France and Germany, the charges brought against "the multitude" seem not merely overstated, but the direct reverse of true.

The chapter on "The Age of Progress" is the most brilliant and entertaining, but also the most sophistical, in the book. Observing a great enthusiasm for political reform at the present moment, Sir H. Maine attributes it to a love of change for its own sake, which again he is sorely puzzled to account for, seeing that, according to him, nothing is more alien to human nature than such a taste. The obvious answer is, that what people desire is not change as such, but change from a worse to a better condition. There seems, also, to be a thorough confusion about the assumption that because the democratic parliaments of the immediate future are expected to legislate on a great scale they are therefore to continue legislating on the same scale through all time. It is held that there are considerable arrears to make up, and that unforeseen cases may subsequently arise needing special provision to be made for them—surely not a very extravagant belief.

In his chapter on "The Constitution of the United States" the author deals with a subject of which he is an unequalled master—the evolution of forms of government; and here, accordingly, he shows himself at his best. Perhaps the orderliness and progressiveness which he signalises as characteristic of the American people are less due to mere legislative enactments than he seems to imagine; but that they should be admitted to exist, for whatever reason, goes far to neutralise much of the anti-democratic special pleading in the earlier portions of his work. Few besides those who are opposed to all progress will agree with his half-hinted wish that the forces of obstruction already operating among ourselves should be aided by the elaborate precautions against organic change which the constitution of the United States has provided.

ALFRED W. BENN.

The Journal of Mary Frampton. From the year 1779 until the year 1846. Edited, with Notes, by her Niece, Harriot Georgiana Mundy. (Sampson Low.)

THIS book, though scarcely to be entitled a journal, inasmuch as the bulk of it consists of correspondence, contains a good deal that will be read with interest. Miss Frampton, the daughter of a well-connected Dorset squire, enjoyed some special opportunities for learning what took place in the worlds of fashion and politics at an eventful epoch; and, through her mother, who lived to the age of ninety-two, her recollections may be said to extend over more than a century.

She remembered Mrs. Montagu, the chimney-sweeper's friend, and was present at her May-day festivities. She remembered when all the world wore powder and pomatum and pyramids of hair, and when "twenty-four large pins were by no means an unusual number to go to bed with on your head." She also remembered the French Revolution, the rise and fall of Napoleon, the alarms for England's safety and the triumph of Waterloo. But it is on the former class of subjects rather than on the latter that her reminiscences throw a useful side-light.

Miss Frampton, for instance, tells us that silver forks, rugs, and foot-stools were luxuries unknown a century ago, except in the very highest families. This, perhaps, rather exaggerates the fact so far as regards the dwellers in towns; nor must we suppose that all country squires with £4,000 a year lived, like Mr. Frampton, in one of the worst rooms of his house, employing it for breakfast, dinner and supper, as well as for more general purposes. But the country had its compensatory advantages, and among them the low price of the necessities of life. Butcher's meat in 1784 was 2½d per pound; and though it rose some years afterwards to 3½d. and 4d., it was evidently not from his stock that the Dorsetshire farmer made his livelihood or paid his rent. In those days, in contrast to these, corn was everything; in those days also there was not that equalisation of prices which railways have brought about.

Moreton, the Framptons' country seat, was within easy distance of Weymouth, and consequently exposed to the invasion of any members of the royal family who might happen to be staying there. The Duke of Gloucester came over on one occasion to shoot pheasants—so numerous that in one field more than 100 brace were feeding, "yet then no arts were used to entice them by giving them corn!"—and invited himself to dinner, which generally took place at three or four o'clock. How the hostess extricated herself from these and similar troubles may best be learnt from the volume itself, in which there is displayed a love of royalty and a disposition to chronicle as important all its sayings and doings, which we cannot certainly call old-fashioned. One anecdote that is recorded reflects more credit upon "the best dressed gentleman in Europe" than much that has come down to us, and it bears the authority of Mrs. Dawson Damer (*née* Seymour), whom Mrs. Fitzherbert had adopted.

"On the death of George IV. in 1830, some jewels and trinkets were directed to be given to Miss Seymour; amongst others was the counterpart of a brooch containing a portrait of George IV., set with a diamond [face] instead of a glass. The diamond had been cut in half, and the other part, set in the same way, contained a miniature of Mrs. Fitzherbert herself. Great search was made at Windsor for this valuable jewel, but in vain. Some time afterwards, the Duke of Wellington, when one evening sitting next to Mrs. Damer, said to her with some hesitation, 'I daresay you may like to know something of the lost jewel'; but, added, 'perhaps I had better not tell you.' She pressed him to continue, when the Duke proceeded to state, with some confusion, that in his office as First Lord of the Treasury, it had been his duty to remain till the very last with the body of the King, who had given him

strict instructions not to leave it, and to be buried with whatever ornaments might happen to be upon his person at the time of his death. The Duke was quite alone with the body, and his curiosity being excited by seeing a small jewel hanging round the neck of the king, he was tempted to look at it, when he found that it was the identical portrait of Mrs. Fitzherbert, covered with the diamond for which the unsuccessful search had been made."

The story was afterwards told to Mrs. Fitzherbert (who scarcely ever alluded to her former connexion with the king), and she displayed much emotion on hearing it.

The comments upon contemporaries made by the journalist and her correspondents are, of course, not the least entertaining bits in the volume. Mrs. Siddons is described as a dull woman in conversation, extremely good-natured, and possessed of a considerable talent for modelling. Mary, the "Beauty of Buttermere," was, in 1810, "a coarse, dirty, fat, rather old mother of two or three children—not at all like a lady of a lake." But the same writer, George Eden (afterwards Earl of Auckland), who thus dispels a poetic illusion, speaks in terms of warm appreciation of Mrs. Lamb, the wife of Lord Melbourne's brother, and one of the charms of Devonshire House. Of Miss Edgeworth Lord Lansdowne writes:

"She has a great deal of imagination, which you would not, I think, expect from her works, and the happiest facility of seizing remote analogies, joined to the strongest perception of humour and wit, whenever it is to be found. The children [of Mr. Edgeworth's second marriage] do ample justice to their scheme of education. They live entirely with their parents, and consequently with whoever may be in the house, but they are always happy, employed, and never in anybody's way, entering into what is going on in conversation without asking troublesome questions or being ashamed of giving their opinions if asked. Mrs. Edgeworth is a very agreeable and sensible woman, and seems to admire and love Miss Edgeworth as she ought. Mr. Edgeworth is tiresome sometimes. . . ."

Then, in 1818 there occurs this notice of Baron Stockmar, with whose name we have lately been made so familiar.

"The Baron and Dr. Stockmar go with Prince Leopold. If Mr. Frampton makes acquaintance with any of these gentlemen, he will find the doctor the smallest body, but the largest mind of the party. The little man is shy and very retired, or I should say retiring."

Of course, in noticing such a book as this, one is tempted to deal largely in extracts. There cannot be any one characteristic feature where the writers are a score in number, and the topics absolutely innumerable. All we can say is that the letters from France during the Revolution, and also in 1815, are full of interest, and that even the trivial gossip, which largely occupies the pages, has acquired through age a certain degree of value. The notes are copious and useful, for without their aid it would be difficult to identify half the personages who are brought beneath the reader's notice. They have fallen back into an obscurity from which rank alone had served to rescue them. Now and then, however, the editor is distinctly redundant. Thus the Dowager Lady Vernon writes in 1814 to recommend Miss Frampton *Mansfield Park*, adding, "It is not much of a novel—more the

history of a family party in the country—very natural, and the characters well drawn." A footnote contains the superfluous information—"One of the incomparable novels by Miss Austen. They are all true pictures of real life, and have deservedly preserved a lasting reputation." The note could alone be justified by their reputation having been lost.

CHARLES J. ROBINSON.

Sardinia and its Resources. By Robert Tennant. (Stanford.)

MR. TENNANT tells us more than once that Sardinia is "almost a *terra incognita*," and that this must be his excuse for adding to the scanty stock of works on the famous Mediterranean island. His volume, however, requires no apology; for, even had it been a poor instead of a very useful description of an interesting country, every fresh mind, so long as the possessor is a man of intelligence and knowledge, enables us to see an old object in a new light. But, when one turns over the five great volumes to which Count Albert della Marmora devoted his life, it is impossible to accept Mr. Tennant's dictum as applicable to anyone except the tourist, who is scarcely a criterion where geographical erudition is concerned. However, we daresay not many of the holiday folk have ever heard of the *Voyage en Sardaigne* or of the *Bulletino Archaeologico Sardo*; and, in any case, the statistics in the former of these treatises are by this time rather stale, so that from the literary point of view there was plenty of room for a new book.

Mr. Tennant, who is not unknown in Parliamentary circles, visited the island as the agent of certain financiers who have been exploiting its undeveloped resources. As might be expected, he was received with effusion, and had better opportunities of examining the country than a traveller less likely to put money in the pockets of the people. This was the one great advantage which he possessed as the possible author of an English description of "Sardegna." But "whilst thus engaged no thoughts of 'writing a book' were present" to his mind, "and it was not till his labours were nearly completed" that the idea which he has now embodied in printers' ink was suggested as at once likely to be useful and original. Whether this is intended as an apology or a recommendation it is difficult to say. But from neither point of view is it acceptable. To say that you have written a book without making special preparation for so serious a task is more censurable than pleading that it has been published "at the request of friends," since these kindly critics may, after all, be capable judges, and not likely to advise the coming author to give the enemy an opportunity for rejoicing. The man who, after visiting a country for one purpose—or perhaps for no purpose in particular—is induced to compile a volume out of his vague recollections, or fragmentary notes, is apt to draw on memory for what only descriptions prepared on the spot are satisfactory, and to supplement the absence of personal knowledge by the oft-times erroneous or antiquated accounts of his predecessors. If he had determined beforehand to perpetrate a literary escapade, he would, if wise, have made himself master of what had already

been written, noted the particulars in which the authors read were weak, and after carefully mapping out the projected work, jotted down under each head the data which must be revised, the assertions which must be sifted, and the still untouched questions which must be eviscerated when the opportunity for doing so was at hand. Otherwise, lost chances will be deplored, and second-hand facts, which are perhaps not facts at all, accepted in place of the writer's own observations, which, if not irrefragable, are, at all events, personal. Mr. Tennant has not, we fear, owing to some of the causes indicated, written so good a book as he might otherwise have done. Still, we are not inclined to find fault, or to declare that his book is intellectually unnutritious, simply because here and there he has given us tinned geography when the carnal man might have preferred the fresh article. On the contrary, we do not know another English book which contains anything like so full or accurate an account of Sardinia, and, with the exception of Della Marmora's monumental tomes, of which Mr. Tennant seems to have made very little use, any foreign one worthy of being compared with it.

After a brief and uncritical *résumé* of the chief historical events connected with the island, Mr. Tennant, who makes no pretension to antiquarian knowledge or to literary experience, devotes ample space to descriptions of the agriculture, the forests, the mines, the railways, and the various industries which formed the reason of his mission to the country. The railways, indeed, get a somewhat undue share of attention; but here he is on his own ground, and the chapter is, therefore, more authoritative than most of the others. The various characteristics and manners of the people, their ceremonials and their superstitions, are sketched more briefly, but, so far as we have been able to see, with unpretentiousness, impartiality, and good sense. The author is an enthusiastic sportsman. The game animals accordingly come in for a large portion of his attention; and, as the ordinary run of Sardinian tourists are bent on slaughter, the information is sure to be acceptable. Mr. Tennant does not, however, seem to be a scientific zoologist; otherwise, even after making allowances for the numerous typographical errata of a book printed at Rome, he could scarcely have so frequently blundered over the names of the beasts and birds described. It might puzzle anyone not acquainted with the Mediterranean, to detect the common *Pinna* in "a crustaceous fish," or the byssus of that well-known bivalve in "the bunch of silk which it contains" (p. 135). Nor is it quite accurate to say (p. 197) that there can "be no doubt" the mouflon is "indigenous to this island and to Corsica, and is not found in another country." It is a native of Greece, and also of Cyprus. However, as he appears to have for the most part relied on Cetti's rather untrustworthy *I quadrupedi di Sardegna*, this, and a few similar mis-statements may, perhaps, be laid at that writer's door. It may likewise be pointed out that to constantly speak of the "Sarde language" is apt to confuse the unphilological reader. Numerous dialects are spoken in Sardinia. But they are no more "languages" different from the Italian than are the tongues of

Naples, Modena, Rome, Lombardy, Sicily, or Corsica, though, like these dialects, widely apart from the typical Tuscan. In the northern part of the Island it is possible to get along with Latin—if the words are written. At Alghero, on the west coast, Catalan is spoken, and the Genoese dialect prevails at Carloforte. But as the literary Italian is taught in all the schools, and is universally spoken and written by the higher classes, and in the larger towns, and is the official tongue, which must be understood by the military recruits, it is fast displacing the local dialects.

There is a very fair map of the island, and several instructive, though very roughly executed, woodcuts. Yet the lack of an index makes it difficult to ransack, without an expenditure of much time and patience, the 311 closely packed pages of what is likely to remain, for some time at least, the most authoritative treatise on Sardinia in the English language. Mr. Tennant is very severe on the blunders of other *litterati*. This is a weakness of most travellers; and, unfortunately for the puzzled reader, this assumption of superior accuracy only holds good until the critic, in his turn, falls into the hands of a third writer. It is a common delusion to mistake the varied impressions of different men for absolute misstatements. There is a Browniate of truth, Wendell Holmes tells us, and a Smithiate of truth; and no doubt there is a Tennantiate of the same polymorphous element. His Nemesis may perhaps come in the shape of a rival author, who will demonstrate to his own satisfaction that Mr. Tennant was no more precise in his assertions than some of the people whom he causes to pass under the harrow. We can only say that our experience is in favour of the contrary view.

ROBERT BROWN.

NEW NOVELS.

The Master of the Mine. By Robert Buchanan. In 2 vols. (Bentley.)

The Beauty of the World. By A. J. Duffield. In 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

Rainbow Gold. By D. Christie Murray. In 3 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

Yoked Together. By E. L. Davis. (Nisbet.)

A Generous Friendship. (Griffith, Farran & Co.)

The Will. By Ernst Eckstein. Translated by Clara Bell. In 2 vols. (Trübner.)

Too Fat. By Luke Lovart. (Bristol: Arrow-smith.)

THERE is probably no contemporary man of letters more heedless of his reputation than Mr. Robert Buchanan. He takes the magic rod in his hand, and refreshing waters gush forth, and he is hailed with acclaim by many who are athirst. A little later, and his voice is heard again in waste places, the wand is once more waved, but the issue is of the scantiest and the savour brackish, if not salt. How the same author came to write *The Shadow of the Sword*, or *God and the Man*, and such a book as *Stormy Waters* must have puzzled even the most indiscriminate reader: the waters ran clearly enough in the former, in the latter they were "stormy" indeed, not to say turbid. Perhaps it would be too

hard upon *The Master of the Mine* to bracket it with the last-named, but it is undoubtedly inferior to any other of Mr. Buchanan's romances. It is certainly safe to say that if this had been the author's first novel he would not have gained a hundredth part of the audience whom he has undoubtedly won over. Throughout it is manifest that Mr. Buchanan has had his eye on the stage, and the stage not of the Haymarket or the Court, but of the Olympic or Drury Lane. In these pages we breathe the air of melodrama, and unfortunately one is more apt to be wearied than amused by certain *banalités* beloved of a wide class of theatre goers. There are scenes that border on the ridiculous: for example, that where the determined hero enters the drawing-room of the manor-house, "first, however, having the grace to take off [his] hat," and refuses to be daunted by any refinements or splendours, "even by the presence of a king"; or, again, in the would-be very dramatic scene in the next chapter, where, in true stage manner, the heroine remains in a dark corner of the drawing-room (unobserved, though her lover and her hostess have been sitting there since dinner), and comes to the front just as Hugh Trelawney, the hero, is about to strike her false lover, *i.e.*, just as the curtain of an intermediate act falls. Mr. Buchanan shows himself to best advantage in descriptions of aspects of nature. The following account of a phenomenal herald of a great storm is vivid; and the present writer can vouch for its truth, having seen something of the kind off the coast of Brazil:

"As the afternoon passed, and the dull leaden twilight increased, we saw, looking seaward, the phenomenon to which I have alluded: two suns—one round and purple, the other pink and ghostly—floating in the vapours to the west. Both were quite rayless, and they hung, as it were, some fifty yards from each other. Both seemed so near to us that one would have thought it possible to reach them with a bullet from a gun. . . . I cannot express in words the strangely depressing and vaguely alarming effect of this phenomenon on myself and all who witnessed it. Nor was the effect lessened when the dimmer of the two suns suddenly disappeared, and the other changed in a moment from purple to jet black—a jet black ball in the midst of a waste of leaden grey."

A very different novel, indeed, is *The Beauty of the World*, by the author of that striking but unequal book, *Needless Misery*. Mr. Duffield is in earnest, and below all his banter there is much strong feeling. It is not, however, as a story that *The Beauty of the World* is most fascinating, for the construction is peculiarly unsatisfactory, many of the characters are mere shadows, and there is a striking lack of a strong central motif. Its charm lies in its noble and manly sentiment, its quaint originality of expression, its narration of certain stirring religious and humanitarian movements that took place in England about half a century ago, and the glimpses it affords us of one or two famous personages thinly disguised under the names of Edward Irvington, Henry Drummard, and Lord Demanville. I have read no novel of recent date containing a tenth part of the thought and mental stimulus of this powerful book, from the perusal of which no one could fail to arise intellectually refreshed. To perpetrate a "bull," there is,

perhaps, nothing in the book more interesting than the preface—a rare characteristic of any work of fiction. According to a statement made therein, the "Beauty of the World" (Bacon's phrase in *The Wisdom of the Ancients*, "the souls of the living are the beauty of the world") was first revealed to the author during a season of "trial and horror." Curious names are those that the reader soon comes across, and no less curious characters. Mr. Samuel Flick, popularly known as Sammy Flick, the reformed brute and inspired revivalist; Tobias Elejuice, prodigal son and nobleman; old Matthew Elejuice, a Jew of Jews, trained to perfection in the art of "taking in" wealthy Gentiles, yet with a certain greatness of character, like a distorted oak, full of sap, and sound at the core; Kerenhappuch Ruck, who marries Matthew D'Anson, the clergyman at whose house the great "seers" of the time are wont to congregate, are, with several others, veritable portraits. The scene is, for the most part, laid in the Warwickshire district, once Shakspeare's beloved corner of England, now in great part foul with natural corruption and human degradation. It is impracticable to give even the barest details of the story, so complicated are the threads of narration. Briefly, it may be said that it is a many-sided survey of social conditions of the England of forty-five years ago (and, to a great extent, of the England of to-day), delineated by one whose life has known something of the struggle, the despair, the scanty victory. Sam Flick sought to save souls by prayer and faith and passionate exhortation; Edward Irvington, mighty of tongue, and Henry Drummard, and others of their kind, would fain have done so through prophesying and transcendental exaltation of spirit; Tobias Elejuice and his disciple George Godson, humanitarians, would have turned degradation and misery into prosperity and gladness through the revelation of man's dependency on man, on man's continual effort, on man's awakening to "the beauty of the world." "Get to work, all of you; have a hand in the New Creation" were not only the last words of George Godson, but are the keynote to all the life-work of Tobias Elejuice. A novel, however, Mr. Duffield's book still is, and for those who read only for the pleasure of the moment it may be an encouragement to learn that, even from their point of view, this original and powerful book will be found greatly interesting.

Mr. D. Christie Murray in *Rainbow Gold* avoids the melodramatic Scylla against which Mr. Buchanan has wrecked his craft and the confusing formlessness of that Charybdis which has absorbed Mr. Duffield. A story that is strongly interesting, that is healthy and robust in tone, and that is permeated with the true romantic flavour is decidedly a book worth reading. All this, and more, is the last novel by the author of *Joseph's Coat*, and other charming tales. Many a reader of the *Cornhill* must have received pure delight in monthly instalments for some time past, for in that magazine *Rainbow Gold* has been appearing as a serial. There are many novels issued annually bearing the sub-title "A Romance," though the majority of them are noteworthy mostly for the total absence of the genuinely romantic spirit. Mr. Murray

does not so designate his latest production, yet it seems to me more worthy to be called a romance than any novel I have read for sometime. It has a far-away suggestion of Mr. R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, though the two books are, both in scheme and treatment, entirely distinct. Since his first book the author of *Joseph's Coat* has developed in his art: his characters are real, lifelike, and act and speak like human beings, not as if they were simply the novelist's mouthpieces. Job Round is the name of the hero, and a fine fellow he is. The village life of Castle Barfield, where he spends his youth, is delineated with admirable skill and *vraisemblance*, and some of the minor characters are realised by the reader with the vividness almost of actual contact. Job's love for the daughter of the fine-natured Armstrong; his quarrel with his headstrong old father, Ezekiel (who ultimately redeems himself in the eyes of the reader by his steadfast upholding of parish rights); his departure from home, his enlistment and his exciting adventures thereafter, with the vague hints of romantic mystery dropped concerning his ultimate relation with the strange Frenchman, Hercule Asmodée Bonaventure, occupy Book I. There is something very tantalising in the fact that the eventful years that follow are left shrouded in mystery. There is ample opportunity here and throughout the remainder of the volume for the reader to imagine anything wild and desperate he may choose—something of the kind he knows must have occurred, but *what* is the mystery. Herein Mr. Murray shows his artistic cunning. When we next meet Job he is some twenty-five years older, is back again in Castle Barfield, is a widower with a beautiful daughter (having married the daughter of Armstrong, for whose sake long ago he had left his home), and is quite one of the most respected citizens of his native place. How one Bowling, *alias* William Dean, a strange sailor addicted to new and startling expletives and speaking foreign tongues, turns up; how also General Conynghame, an old-time enemy of Job, comes to reside in the neighbourhood; how the love-plot grows and grows, how innocence is nearly ruined, and how the wicked spin the web of their own entanglement; how also one great discovery becomes more and more imminent; how through it all the mysterious hidden treasure, the "rainbow gold," seems to be the hinge on which everything turns; and how in the end justice is satisfied and true lovers are made happy, must be left to the reader to find out, who will find the process a delightful task. Mr. Murray's romance must be one of the most successful books of the season. Certainly no more wholesome and no more thrilling excitement could be afforded; while—and this is no small matter—the author is the capable writer throughout, finding even the most minor incidents (many of which are characterised by delightful humour), since worth telling at all, worth telling well.

It was a good step from *The Master of the Mine* to *Rainbow Gold*; it is a much farther one back again from the latter to *Yoked Together*. The story turns on the unhappiness attending the marriage of an extremely narrow-minded young lady of evangelical principles with a lawyer of the name of

Saddlethwaite—is, in fact, intended to portray the evils of marriage when husband and wife are not both “safe in Christ.” Miss Davis’s intention is doubtless good; but the story is frequently vulgar in tone and generally unpleasant, leaving behind it a disagreeable sensation of having wasted one’s time in commonplace and wholly uninteresting company. Out of the batch of novels and tales which I am reviewing, three have prefatory notes wherein some more or less direct allusion is made to critics: Miss Ellen Louisa Davis has a lofty scorn for the human animal, and appeals elsewhere. “May the Lord, who alone can ‘establish the work of our hands,’ set the seal of His approval on this *Tale of Three Sisters*,” &c., &c.

A much pleasanter, as well as better-written and very much healthier girl’s-story, is *A Generous Friendship*. The writer does not put her name on the title-page, but she has no need to be ashamed of her authorship. Girls will delight in the story of Celeste, the young musician, and all her trials and experiences; in the adventurous and unintentional voyage to England; and in the naturally described love-episodes. There is some dwelling on the “Christian spirit” here also, but in an entirely natural, sympathetic, and genuine manner.

The Will is an interesting study of contemporary German life by the well-known author of *Quintus Claudius*. There is a good deal of mystery, much interesting “unweaving of the tangled web,” and some vivid characterisation. Roderick Lund, the poet-dramatist, and Pröhle, the socialistic workman, are recognisable types. Miss Clara Bell, known to many through her translations of George Ebers’ novels, has accomplished her task exceedingly well.

Too Fat: a Domestic Difficulty, is certainly a mirth-provoking production. The married life of one Edward de Saumarez is rendered miserable through a steadily growing tendency of his wife to “develope adipose deposit.” There is much play upon words, sometimes very clever, occasionally rather far-fetched; and an enjoyable half-hour can be spent in learning how Mrs. de Saumarez indulged in “furtive farinaceousness,” and grew fatter and fatter; how the home of the unhappy pair was broken up; how, at last, in humiliation and sorrow, Edward returned to his Marian; how a radical change was wrought; and how they “lived happily ever afterward.”

WILLIAM SHARP.

GIFT-BOOKS.

King Solomon’s Mines. By H. Rider Haggard. (Cassell.) The author of this new “treasure story” is already known by a work on South Africa, and by more than one novel of merit. He has here combined his personal experience with his practice in fiction to write a traveller’s story which will stir the pulses of juvenile readers, and will commend itself only in a less degree to the blasé critic. Let it be said at once that *King Solomon’s Mines* is not another *Treasure Island*, just as *Treasure Island* was not exactly another *Gold Bug*. Poe remains unsurpassed in the art of unfolding the stages of a mystery, and Mr. Stevenson need fear no rival among living writers in the portrayal of character and in the finish of literary style. Mr. Haggard must rest content with the praise

of having written a boys’ book of the first class, which holds the attention from the first page to the last. If the baronet is but the ordinary paladin of this class of literature, and the naval officer has been met with before, yet Mr. Quatermain himself almost reaches the dignity of an original creation, by force not so much of what he does as of his shrewd reflections and simple character. Concerning the incidents, we will only make two remarks, which are not intended to be captious. It seems a mistake to make the treasure consist of diamonds rather than of gold; for any precious stones in such abundance as is here implied would inevitably fall to the value of painted glass, while it is scarcely possible to conceive an over-production of gold. And, in the second place, we have felt disgust at the lavish introduction of bloodshed, to which no remembrance of the Zulu war can reconcile us. Under all the circumstances, we are glad that the book has come out without any illustrations.

In Quest of Gold. By Alfred St. Johnston. (Cassell.) Here we have another “treasure story,” with this additional point in common with *King Solomon’s Mines*—that both authors have themselves seen the wild life they describe. To this advantage is due the freshness with which Australian life is given—the physical precociousness of the two boys who are the heroes, their resourcefulness and independence, and their feats of horsemanship. The character of the *mapai*, or “black” is even more effectively rendered. He is thoroughly loyal to his masters, out of gratitude for the saving of his life; and on many occasions his savage instincts and habits prove of great service. But the common mistake is not made of raising him to a moral hero, or of making the whites dependent upon the black. His laziness and his gluttony place him decisively in a place not far above the brutes. The weak point of the book is the plot, which demands too large a number of fortunate coincidences. In the illustrations, the indefatigable Mr. Gordon Browne has struck a new vein, and shown that he can draw horses as effectively as men. The picture that is repeated on the cover is a marvel of spirited draughtsmanship.

Two Thousand Years Ago; or, the Adventures of a Roman Boy. By Prof. A. J. Church. (Blackie.) We must confess at once that we are disappointed—not so much with this book, as with its author. The hero of it is a grand-nephew of Marius and a protégé of Cicero, who is brought into contact with Spartacus and Verres, with Mithradates and Pompey, and with Virgil’s “old man of Coryceus.” Here was the very opportunity for a professor of Latin, and the author of that charming series of “Stories from the Classics,” to write a tale that might banish *Gallus* to the shelf of books of reference. We find, indeed, plenty of moving incident by land and sea, and somewhat too many love scenes; but we miss altogether any presentation of the historical importance of the period and of “the grandeur that was Rome.” The larger portion of the story is laid in Asia Minor—among the Galatians, of whom so little is authentically known, and still further east in Armenia and Pontus. Worse than all, young Lucius Marius is depicted after the fashion of a modern Englishman, saving the life of a Greek damsel, finally acquiring, by good luck, a large fortune, and settling down to the career of a country gentleman in Arcadia. The book, too, shows signs of hasty composition. In the first chapter, we are introduced to a certain Caius, whom the hero promises not to forget, but of whom we never hear again. The illustrations are no more antique than is the story.

For Name and Fame; or Through Afghan Passes. By G. A. Henty. (Blackie.) Mr.

Henty requires to be warned against the danger that besets the popular writer, no less than the popular painter, of presuming upon his facility in a special genre. Too much of the present book reads like extracts from newspaper correspondence about the Afghan war. In particular, the first campaign of Sir F. Roberts in the Kuram Valley is narrated at tedious length. The story itself, as might be expected from so practised a hand, is full of exciting (not to say marvellous) incidents. The book opens with the kidnapping by gipsies of a well-born boy, who, of course, bears a strawberry mark. Having been brought up in a workhouse, he is apprenticed to a Yarmouth trawler. A Dutch ship runs down the trawler and carries out our hero to the Malay seas, where follow the familiar shipwreck and adventures among savages. So far, if there is no novelty, the story moves briskly along. Arrived at Calcutta the boy enlists for active service in Afghanistan, takes part in nearly all the operations of the two campaigns, and retires from the service as a full captain after not very many months. It was, indeed, a bold conception to make him be present at the massacre of Cavagnari and his party. Incidentally, he saves his father’s life, and is duly recognised as his son. The illustrations are by Mr. Gordon Browne, whose versatility, boldness, and thoroughness of draughtsmanship we are never weary of admiring. In our judgment, they raise the book from what may be called the third class to the second class of juvenile literature.

A Soldier Born. By J. Percy Groves. (Griffith, Farran, & Co.) A thoroughly interesting story of military life, made to extend throughout almost the entire century by tracing the history of a regiment in which grandfather, father, and son have all served. There is the usual sub-plot of love and doubtful identity, with a spice of smuggling and piracy thrown in; but the real value of the book is its historical character, vouched by the dedication. On the last page is a not unnatural ebullition of *esprit de corps*, suggested by the recent introduction of territorial names for regiments. But even here the truthfulness of the author supplies an answer. On p. 93 we learn that about 1820 the same regiment had already changed its uniform from green to red, undergoing at the same time a more material alteration of title; and, on p. 247, it is stated that the result of the Crimean War was to reduce the battalion to “hardly 100 men fit for duty.” The illustrations, by Mr. W. Pearce, are of more than average merit, special care having been taken to preserve historical accuracy of costume.

The Vanished Diamond: a Tale of South Africa. By Jules Verne. (Sampson Low.) We incline to think that Jules Verne is most fascinating when he is in the region of the impossible—up in the moon, or under the sea, or travelling round the world in eighty days; but even when he taxes his inventive powers less seriously he is always an attractive writer, and this story of life in the diamond fields is certain to delight the audience to which it appeals. Even here we have something of the marvellous, for the diamond which vanishes—the largest diamond in the world—is not found but manufactured by Victor Cyprien, the young French chemist. The adventures of Cyprien and his wonderful stone are sufficiently thrilling, and the telling of the story is of course admirable.

The Rover of the Andes. By R. M. Ballantyne. (Nisbet.) The fathers, mothers, guardians, uncles, and aunts who wish to find an acceptable birthday or Christmas present for a healthy-minded boy of normal tastes, cannot possibly go wrong if they buy a book with Mr. Ballantyne’s name upon the title-page. *The Rover of the Andes* is a tale of adventure in South America,

a comparatively unworked region; and the story, like *Othello's*, is full of hair-breadth escapes and moving accidents.

MR. FISHER UNWIN has published this week a "boys' edition" of Prof. Vambéry's *Life and Adventures*. Except for the illustrations, the book deserves nothing but praise. By omitting political disquisitions the volume is reduced in size, and at the same time made more suitable for its new circle of readers. As all writers of boys' books know, from Defoe downwards, no form of narrative is more effective than the autobiographical; and in this case autobiography is not a mere matter of form, but the natural vehicle for expressing the intense vivacity of the author. In his "Introductory Chapter to the Boys of England," M. Vambéry tells a touching story about his lameness in early childhood; and he implies that a more complete autobiography is reserved for publication after his death.

Key-Hole Country. By Gertrude Jerdon. (Sampson Low.) Alice went through the looking glass, Gwendoline goes through the key-hole, for Miss Jerdon is one of the many who have waved the wand of "Lewis Carroll," and endeavoured to reproduce his incantations. It must, however, be added that she is among the ablest of the crowd of imitators; and those who love the duchess and the mock-turtle will be pleased to make the acquaintance of the caller herring, the old woman who lived in the shoe, and the other heroes and heroines of song. Miss Jerdon has not had the good fortune to secure the artistic services of a Tenniel, but the illustrations have a good deal of pleasant humour, and are not unworthy of the text.

A Bunch of Berries and the Diversions thereof. By Leader Scott. Illustrated by C. Paterson. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) This is a really delightful volume, full of interest and of bright, happy humour, and, altogether, one of the best children's books we have seen for a long time. The Berries were children, and there were eight of them, three belonging to Mr. Charles Berry, who lived in the country, and five belonging to Mr. Herbert Berry, who lived in the town. First, we have the life of the little Berries—Elderberry, Strawberry, and the rest at home; then their adventures at the seaside; and, finally, the papers of the Berrie Scribbleological Club, to which they are all contributors. *A Bunch of Berries* is not only a very good book, but a very pretty book, and the illustrations by C. Paterson—we do not know whether the initial stands for Charles or Catherine—are capital.

Who was Philip? A Tale of Public School Life. By the Rev. H. C. Adams. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) Mr. Adams has become so favourably known by his previous stories that his name will probably carry as much weight as any recommendation of ours; but, as we must pronounce judgment, we will simply say that *Who was Philip?* is an exceedingly interesting and wholesome story. Juveniles as well as their elders enjoy a spice of mystery; and the question concerning the parentage of Philip Fairford supplies the popular element.

Nimrod Nunn. By the author of "Our Valley," &c. (S. P. C. K.) The S. P. C. K. is generally fortunate in its story-tellers. They manage, as a rule, to be both interesting and edifying without allowing the edification to overpower the interest by becoming too aggressively obvious; and to do this needs a good deal of cleverness, tact, and common sense. These qualities are all exhibited in *Nimrod Nunn*, which is so full of incident that it never drags, and which is written throughout in a pleasant, natural style. We do not, however, see the necessity for the sad ending.

Child Pictures from Dickens. (Griffith, Farran, & Co.) Though we are not among those who hold that Dickens's children are his happiest creations, it is impossible not to welcome this attempt to introduce our own young people to the writings of the great novelist. The method adopted is to tell just so much of the story as is necessary to explain the illustrations of Little Nell, Tiny Tim, Oliver, Smike, &c. But was the Fat Boy a child? The heads on the cover by George Cruikshank the younger are certainly clever; the drawings inside, which seem to be by different hands, are of various degrees of merit.

The Ministry of Flowers; being some Thoughts respecting Life, suggested by the Book of Nature. By Hilderic Friend. (Sonnenschein.) This is a collection of sermons, in which the phenomena of the plant world are made to serve as texts for the teaching of moral and religious lessons. The author is not free from the charge of treating "the Book of Nature" with the same sort of violence as most of his clerical brethren are accustomed to apply to the Bible. The "lesson" to be taught is more frequently put into the text than elicited from it by any natural method of interpretation. However, Mr. Friend is a good botanist, and an agreeable writer; and his records of personal observation will be read with interest by many who are not particularly anxious to hear about "the brevity of human life," or "the terrible potency of evil habits."

Queer Pets and their Doings. By Olive Thorne Miller. (Griffith, Farran & Co.) They are indeed queer pets. A house in a pleasant village near New York is full of cats, dogs, birds, squirrels, &c.; and many wonderful—yet we imagine perfectly true tales are told about them. This charming book cannot fail to please young people; and it is not only amusing but also instructive. The illustrations by Mr. J. C. Beard are excellent.

Three Martyrs of the Nineteenth Century. By the Author of the "Chronicles of the Schönberg-Cotta Family." (S. P. C. K.) The three martyrs to whom this volume is devoted are Dr. Livingstone, General Gordon, and Bishop Patteson. There is occasionally a suspicion of high-pressure and consequent jerkiness in the literary style; but the stories are picturesquely and movingly told, and the fact of its authorship is certain to secure for it the success which it seems to deserve. We say "seems," for we have taken the volume largely on trust, and book-buyers will probably follow our example.

A Diary of Golden Thoughts for the Year. (Fisher Unwin.) A little oblong book, very daintily and tastefully got-up, containing admirably selected brief extracts from great writers, one being apportioned to each day in the year. The selections have a freshness which testifies that they are the gleanings of individual reading, and the volume is one with which a very pleasant half-hour may be spent.

Jesus, Lover of My Soul. By Charles Wesley. (Nelson.) This little *édition de luxe* of Charles Wesley's well-known hymn will attract some present-buyers of a devout bent, but it does not seem to us to have any very obvious reason of being. The publishers give us a memorial sketch of Charles Wesley by "H. L. L.," a musical setting of the hymn, and a number of illustrations by Mr. Clark Stanton, and other artists, which have not greatly captivated us.

The Fairyland A B C for Little Folk. Illustrated by E. A. Mason. (J. Clarke & Co.) The idea, though perhaps not novel, is a clever one, of introducing under their initial letters pictures of the personages, animals, and things that are familiar to all children, either from old-fashioned nursery rhymes, or from the works of Hans Anderson, Grimm, Lewis Carroll, &c.

A SIMPLE tale of faith in a German household, *Goetz Jäger's Son*, by H. J. M. G. (S. P. C. K.), will please all lovers of quiet, restful stories, in preference to the strongly contrasted characters and scenes of too many modern tales.

Broken Hearts are Still, by Phoebe Allen (S. P. C. K.), is a touching narrative of sorrow and forgiveness, far more real than the bulk of such stories. No better book could be suggested for a parish library, but the grim woodcuts which accompany it cannot be called illustrations.

Marie's Home; or, a Glimpse of the Past, by Mrs. Austin (Blackie), goes back to the first French revolution for incidents. It is somewhat confusing, as in the first chapter a girl is supposed to read the eventful history of her family from a journal of that time of terror which had been written by her great-grandmother. The rabble are introduced mobbing Marie Antoinette at Versailles and clamouring for bread, but the author has forgotten that the Queen was said at that supreme moment to have asked them, with much astonishment, "If they had no bread, why could not they eat cake?" The moral of the book is excellent—in all vicissitudes to walk in the path of unselfish duty.

Girlhood Days; or, Auld Lang Syne, by the author of "Chaucer's Stories Simply Told" (Griffith, Farran & Co.), is an aimless tale for school-girls, with some curious lapses from Lindley Murray which are not to be commended; such as, "the governess sat with we girls hanging over her," and "people are advised to consider their life a sort of necessary preparation to something better, which one has no right to expect very smooth and easy." The cover of the book is pretty.

STORIES written for other than literary ends are seldom very successful, and *Vexed*; or, the Wife's Sister (S. P. C. K.), is no exception. One sister states the arguments against the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill with much learning; the other marries, and, without the least cause for jealousy, absolutely dies from fear that her husband should wish to marry the clever sister. The book is so contrary to all experience that it overshoots its mark.

Ways and Means in a Devonshire Village; a Book for Mothers' Meetings, by E. C. Sharland (S. P. C. K.), is excellent in every way. The turns of language and thought are true to the western county; the dialogues are smart and amusing, while the receipts and directions for thrifty housekeeping interspersed would do much good to the class for which the book is meant. We highly recommend it.

Abyssinia; translated from the German of Dr. H. W. J. Thiersch by Sarah M. S. Pereira (Nisbet), contains a lucid account of the early Christianity of that country, together with a narrative of King Theodore's arbitrary proceedings, which led to his destruction by Sir Robert Napier's expedition. Events have moved too rapidly for Dr. Thiersch, who pleads for substantial support from England as an abiding bulwark against Islam and the hordes of the Mahdi. The book is a useful epitome of the history of Abyssinia.

THE Rev. C. R. Ball has added another to the many manuals on the subject, *Familiar Instructions on the Church Catechism* (S. P. C. K.). It is simple, brief, and exhaustive.

A Glad Service (S. P. C. K.), by Elinor Lewis, consists of twenty Bible lessons thoughtfully, and with much care, drawn out as a help to be used at young women's classes, or as a gift book to girls. This little book will prove a great assistance at girls' friendly meetings and the like.

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. NAPIER, the newly-appointed Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford, will begin his first course of lectures on November 20. The subject he has chosen is "The Earliest English Literature down to the Conquest."

Two fresh "autographs" (so-called) of Shakspeare have just turned up in a copy of the Prayer Book of Edward VI., printed by Edward Whitchurch in June 1549. This book was sold, with some other old volumes of theology, to a country doctor in 1878 by the trustees of a grammar school who wished to buy some newer works for their boys. All the volumes had been on the school shelves for a time beyond the memory of any inhabitant. The Prayer Book was shown to Mr. Toon, the widely-travelled second-hand bookseller of 38 Leicester Square; and he, seeing one signature of "Shakspeare" in the inner margin of the title, tempted his customer to exchange it for some beautiful old Salisbury books, &c. Mr. Toon then found a second signature "W. Shakspeare" at the foot of one of the leaves in the inside of the book, and several "SS" on another margin. Dr. Farnivall was asked to inspect the book, and at once gave his opinion that the signatures, though old, of the seventeenth century—not by Collier or Ireland—were not Shakspeare's. Still, they are interesting, as witnessing to the popularity of Shakspeare's name in his death-century. The British Museum opinion is, we hear, divided on the point, some of the experts being more or less pronouncedly in favour of the genuineness of the signatures, while the head of the MS. department is against it. Mr. Toon's copy of this Prayer Book has as its last leaf the very rare Proclamation of Edward VI. fixing the price at which the book is to be sold. This was wanting in the Museum copy, and has now been supplied from Mr. Toon's original; while the latter's one missing leaf has been facsimiled from the Museum copy. Mr. Toon asks the moderate sum of £90 for his rare volume.

MESSRS. BLACKWOOD, who have recently issued an account of *The River Column*, by its commander, Gen. Brackenbury, now announce for immediate publication *From Korti to Khartum*, by Sir Charles Wilson, being the journal of his march across the Bayuda Desert, and his voyage up the Nile in the fruitless effort to relieve Gordon.

The Broken Shaft; or, Tales Told in Mid Ocean, is the title of a collection of short stories that Mr. Fisher Unwin will shortly issue as his Annual for 1885. The contributors, who were all fellow-passengers on board the *Bavaria* when the accident occurred, include Messrs. R. L. Stevenson, F. Marion Crawford, F. Anstey, W. Archer, and W. H. Pollock.

MESSRS. TRÜBNER will publish in January *A Common-Place Book of the Fifteenth Century*, printed from the original MS. at Browne Hall, Suffolk, by Lady Caroline Kerrison, with notes by Miss Lucy Toulmin Smith. Among the contents are a poem of "Adrian and Epotys," never before printed in England, a religious play treating of Abraham and Isaac, and several minor poems; several sets of local accounts; and many entries relating to manorial courts, forms of charters, &c.

MESSRS. MACMILLAN will publish shortly a popular edition, in ten volumes, of Mr. Francis Parkman's historical works treating of the French in America.

THE same publishers announce a new book by Mr. Alfred Russel Wallace, entitled *Bad Times*.

MR. ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON is engaged on a new story, the scene of which is laid in

Edinburgh and in Australia. It will form the Christmas number of the *Court and Society Review*.

MR. T. FISHER UNWIN will publish next week a novel, entitled *The Bachelor Vicar of Newforth*, by Mrs. Harcourt Roe. It is a story of clerical and social life in an English country town. The same publisher announces a volume, by Major Stewart Harrison, entitled *The Queen of the Arena, and Other Stories*. Some of the tales were first published many years ago in *Once a Week*. The volume will be illustrated with four engravings by Millais and other artists.

MESSRS. HURST & BLACKETT have in the press *The Egyptian Campaigns and the Events which led to them*, by Mr. Charles Royle, containing a detailed account of the relations of England and Egypt for the last ten years.

THE new *Life of Bunyan*, by Mr. Brown, of Bedford, the present occupant of Bunyan's pulpit there, will be published next week on both sides of the Atlantic—by Messrs. Isbister in London, and by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, & Co. in Boston and New York.

Notes on Siamese Musical Instruments is the title of a pamphlet by Mr. Richard Edgcumbe, which will be issued by Messrs. Clowes in a few days, with numerous illustrations.

MR. WILLIAM WESTALL has written for *Cassell's Saturday Journal* a story entitled "Two Pinches of Snuff," the opening chapters of which will appear early in December. The scene of the story is laid in Manchester and in Dresden.

MR. PIMBLETT'S *English Political History, 1880-85*, will be issued in the course of a few days by Mr. Elliot Stock.

MR. BROWNING will not leave Venice for London till near the end of November, so that he will not be able to see Miss Alma Murray in his "Colombe's Birthday" at the Browning Society's performance on November 19. Two points of some importance in the interpretation of the character of Colombe on which Miss Murray differed from the stage-manager and another authority, were referred to Mr. Browning; and he has decided both entirely in Miss Murray's favour, and has complimented her warmly on the way in which she had exactly entered into his conception of his heroine on these points.

THE inaugural meeting of the Scarborough Browning Society was held in the Art Schools last Saturday, the chair being taken by Archdeacon Blunt. Mr. Ernest Radford addressed the society upon the scope and quality of Browning's work, and a short discussion followed. Papers are promised upon "The Epistle of Karshish" and "Rabbi Ben Ezra."

THE Oxford Browning Society will hold two meetings this term: on November 11, the Rev. C. Plummer will read a paper on "The Historical Aspect of some of the Poems"; and on December 2 "Colombe's Birthday" will be read.

THE *Quiver* Christmas number this year will be called "Sure and Swift." It will include a long story by Mary Linskill; a paper by the Bishop of Liverpool, stories by the Rev. P. B. Power, Edwin Goadby, F. M. F. Skene; a new tune to the carol "While Shepherds watched," by the organist to the University of Cambridge. The illustrations are by Mary Gow, C. Gregory, Gordon Browne, M. Ellen Edwards, F. W. Burton, G. Grenville Manton, W. S. Stacey, and W. J. Hennessy.

THE Prince of Wales has consented to become patron of the Bethnal Green Free Library, in place of the late Lord Shaftesbury.

AN authorised German translation, by E. Wöhler, of Prof. Jebb's *Life of Bentley*, in the "English Men of Letters Series," has been published by Herr Gaertner, of Berlin.

SIG. TILVAGNI'S *Rome: its Princes, Priests, and People*, an English translation of which was recently issued, has just been placed on the Index Expurgatorius.

THE last addition to the pretty series of "Canterbury Poets" (Walter Scott) is *Cowper*, edited by Eva Hope. The introductory notice is gracefully written, and gives a fair presentment of the man and the poet; but we must protest against the misprint by which the name of the St. Alban's doctor is given twice (p. 15) as "Colton."

THE senate of the University College, Liverpool, now incorporated into the Victoria University, is preparing a "business curriculum" such as shall be suitable for clerks and apprentices. The curriculum is to extend over a space of two academical years, and is divided into two portions, one more especially devoted to languages, and the other to science. The business men of Liverpool are, it is satisfactory to know, heartily co-operating with the senate; and it is anticipated that a number of firms will meet the wishes of the senate by consenting to relax one year of the apprenticeship of young men who shall be holders of a certificate to the effect that they have satisfactorily passed the examination to be held at the end of this curriculum. It is obvious that if the local English colleges are ever to attain to the importance of the Scottish universities, they must find some means of persuading the business men and shopkeepers of England that a good education is a good thing in itself, and does not incapacitate from business. There is also no doubt that if the University authorities wish to attract to them the young men of the great business centres, they must make every endeavour to secure the co-operation and learn the views of business men as to the kind of education necessary to fit men for business. It is a great thing to know that at both colleges of the Victoria University modern languages are well taught, and that oral examinations are held in them, so that a diploma from that university, or from either of the colleges, setting forth that a young man had passed satisfactorily in these, would have a valuable import.

AMERICAN JOTTINGS.

It may be as well to contradict a rumour, which has got into print, to the effect that Mr. F. Wedmore, who is now on a visit to America, has been seriously ill. As a matter of fact, he is quite well and has been enjoying his tour much. He is to lecture at Baltimore at the end of the present week, and sails for home on November 19 in the *Baltic*.

THE representatives of Ralph Waldo Emerson announce that a number of his letters to Carlyle appear to have been stolen. They caution all persons against buying, selling, or publishing any papers purporting to be the originals of letters from Emerson to Carlyle, and they ask that anyone who may hear of the existence of any such letters will do them the favour to inform them where the letters may be found. Address Mr. Edward W. Emerson, Concord, Mass. These MSS. were all given by Carlyle to a member of Emerson's family, and the right of publication, of course, belongs by law to the writer's representatives.

MESSRS. HARPER have concluded an arrangement with Mr. W. D. Howells by which all the new writings of that author—his novels, short stories, descriptive sketches, and dramatic pieces—will be exclusively at their disposal.

from the beginning of next year. Mr. Howells is also to contribute monthly to *Harper's Magazine*, beginning with the January number, an editorial department having a relation to literature corresponding to that which the "Editor's Easy Chair" has to society. The new department will probably be styled the "Editor's Study." It will be purely literary in its character—not a review of books, but a discussion of literary topics suggested by the salient features of current literature in America and Europe.

THE papers which Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has been contributing to the *Atlantic Monthly*, under the heading of "A New Portfolio," will be published immediately by Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., of Boston, in book form, with the new title "A Mortal Antipathy."

THE new volume of *Lippincott's Magazine* will begin with the new year, instead of in November. Among the special features will be the publication, simultaneously with their appearance in England, of stories, essays, and sketches by well-known English contributors to the magazines.

A PARAGRAPH has been going the round of the American papers to the effect that Tennyson's forthcoming volume will contain "an echo of *Poverty*, *Poverty*, *Poverty* [sic] in another dialect."

In a review of Mr. Hall Caine's novel, *She's all the World to Me*, the *Nation*, which is not usually given to hyperbole, says of the author: "He has written a poem in strength and beauty of idea, in artistic unity and completeness, in the harmony between the expression and the scenes, incidents, and thoughts presented."

As the book has not yet been published in this country, Mr. Hall Caine still has a chance of giving it another title.

A VOLUME, just published by Mr. Crowell, of New York, entitled *Poor Boys who became Famous*, by Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton, passed into a second edition immediately it was issued. The author says that Mr. George W. Childs possesses an autograph letter of Poe, in which he offers to his publishers thirty-three short stories, enough to fill two large volumes, "on the terms which you allowed me before: that is, you receive all profits and allow me twenty copies for distribution to friends." The favourable reception of this book has induced Mrs. Bolton to write a companion volume on *Famous Women*.

TRANSLATION.

TO THE READER.

(From the French of Sully Prudhomme.)

When once my song's gone forth, this heart
No longer knows it for its own;
Within me stays the better part,
My truest verse will ne'er be known.

As silvery butterflies crowd near
The flowers they're eager to caress,
So round the thoughts I hold most dear
Sweet verses, trembling, beat and press:

I strive to seize them, lo! they spring
And rise and whirl in sudden flight,
Nought leaving but the powder light
Brushed from their frail and startled wing.

My touch would spoil their tender hue;
And I must take their life away,
If here, stretched out, I'd have them stay,
With heart transfixed, set two by two.

Thus ever filled our souls remain
With songs that all unsung shall die.
Light moths unseen—only the stain
Our fingers keep as they flit by.

I. O. L.

MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

THE *Scottish Review* for November certainly deserves its name, for of the eight articles that appear in it six deal with Scotland. It was, perhaps, inevitable that, with the General Election in sight, the subject of Disestablishment should be discussed; and the two sides of it are dealt with by Principal Tulloch, of St. Andrews, as champion, and the Rev. Dr. Hutcheon, of Paisley, as assailant of the Church of Scotland. To these, we ourselves, prefer such papers as "Scottish Catholics under Mary and James," and "The Scottish Parliament." The latter is a very interesting account of a venerable Northern institution which there would appear to be some idea of reviving under the designation of a "National Council." Perhaps the most notable papers are an informative one on "The York Mystery Plays," and another on "Scotland's New Departure in Philosophy." The latter is a temperate summing up of recent Scotch philosophic work, which is largely of the character of a revival of idealism. This magazine has now found a place—and a very good place—for itself in Scotch periodical literature.

MR. THEODORE BENT's paper in the *Antiquary* for November on the travels of certain Japanese ambassadors in Europe under the guardianship of the Jesuits is most interesting. We wish he had made it more clear where the diaries now exist from which he has made his extracts. Mr. Horace Round's essay on "Municipal Offices" is but a first instalment. It is not fair to criticise until his labours are more complete. From the little he has given us we are hopeful that he will materially increase our information on a subject which is as yet very obscure. "Witchcraft in the Sixteenth Century" has no author's name. It does not add to our knowledge of a painful subject. In a paper entitled "Scotter and its Manor," Mr. Edward Peacock draws attention to the silly fashion which was prevalent at the time of the great enclosures of altering the names of places, so as to make them sound more pleasantly to polite ears. We fear this kind of mutilation is still going on in rural places.

SELECTED FOREIGN BOOKS.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

- BÉAUMONT, L. La Fortification du temps présent. Paris: Le Soulier. 50 fr.
FRIEDRICH, W. Goethe's Leben in Bildern. Nach der Biographie v. G. H. Lewes in Tuschezeichnungen. München: Ackermann. 30 M.
FRIMMEL, Th. Die Apokalypse in den Bilderhandschriften d. Mittelalters. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 1 M. 60 Pf.
GENEVAY, A. Le style Louis XIV. Charles Le Brun, décorateur, ses œuvres etc. Paris: Rouam. 25 fr.
LEGRAND, E. Bibliographie hellénique; ou, description raisonnée des ouvrages publiés en Grèce par des Grecs au 15^e et 16^e siècles. Paris: Leroux. 60 fr.
ROCHEFORT, H. La grande Bohème. Paris: Victor-Havard. 3 fr. 50 c.
STAEHELIN, A. Sommer u. Winter in Südamerika. Basel: Schwabe. 3 M. 20 Pf.

THEOLOGY, ETC.

- BAETHGEN, F. Evangelienfragmente. Der griech. Text d. Cureton'schen Syrs wiederhergestellt. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 10 M.
BENDER, W. Das Wesen der Religion u. die Grundsätze der Kirchenbildung. Bonn: Cohen. 6 M.
ROHM, J. B. Der erste Brief an die Thessalonicher, übersetzt u. erläutert. Passau: Bucher. 3 M.
SPITTA, F. Der zweite Brief d. Petrus u. der Brief d. Judas. Eine geschichtl. Untersuchung. Halle: Waisenhaus. 9 M.

HISTORY.

- DÉRIDOUR, A. L'Impératrice Théodora. Paris: Dentu. 2 fr.
MEMOIRES der Königin v. England (1689-93). Hrg. v. R. Dobner. Leipzig: Veit. 3 M.
PLISCHKE, M. Das Rechtsverfahren Rudolfs v. Habsburg gegen Ottokar v. Böhmen. Bonn: Cohen. 1 M. 20 Pf.
PORRO, P. Note sulla storia d'Italia. Vol. VI. Parte 4. Milan: Dumolard. 6 L.
SCHMIDT, Ch. Précis de l'histoire de l'église d'occident pendant le moyen âge. Paris: Fischbacher. 12 fr.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY.

- BREZINA, A. Die Meteoritensammlung d. k. k. mineralogischen Hókabinetes in Wien am 1. Mai 1885. Wien: Holder. 9 M.
DRASCHE, K. v. Beiträge zur feineren Anatomie der Polychaeten. 1. Hft. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 3 M.
HAUSSE, G. Anthropologie. Minden: Bruns. 7 M.
SCHENCK, H. Die Biologie der Wassergewächse. Bonn: Cohen. 5 M.

PHILOLOGY, ETC.

- BAEDLER, J. J. Beiträge zu e. Geschichte der lateinischen Grammatik im Mittelalter. Halle: Waisenhaus. 3 M. 60 Pf.
CHRIST, W. Platonische Studien. München: Franz. 1 M. 80 Pf.
FICK, A. Die homerische Ilias, nach ihrer Entstehung betrachtet u. in der ursprünglichen Sprachform wiederhergestellt. 1. Hälfte. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck. 10 M.
KUHLE, J. Beiträge zur griechischen Etymologie. 1. Abt. bei Homer. Leipzig: Freytag. 3 M.
MUELLER, F. Grundriss der Sprachwissenschaft. 3 Bd. Die Sprachen der lockenhaarigen Rassen. 2. Abth. 2. Hälfte. Die Sprachen der mittelälteren Rasse. Wien: Holder. 5 M. 40 Pf.
PRELLWITZ, W. De Dialecto Thessalica. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck. 1 M. 40 Pf.
REISCH, Ae. De musicis Graecorum certaminibus capita IV. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 4 M.
SAMMLUNG der griechischen Dialekt-Inschriften. Hrg. v. H. Collitz. 2. B. 1. Hft. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck. 3 M. 60 Pf.
SLAMECZKA, P. Untersuchungen üb. die Rede d. Demosthenes v. der Gesandtschaft. Wien: Holder. 1 M. 60 Pf.
SMYTH, H. W. Der Diphthong «i» im Griechischen m. Berücksichtg. seiner Entsprechungen in verwandten Sprachen. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck. 1 M. 80 Pf.
ZIELINSKI, Th. Die Märchenkomödie in Athen. St. Petersburg: Krantz. 2. M. 50 Pf.

CORRESPONDENCE.

COLERIDGE'S MS. NOTES ON MALTHUS.

London: Oct. 31, 1881.

The British Museum is understood to possess a large number of books from the library of Coleridge, annotated by his own hand. They passed into its keeping on the death of his executor, Dr. Joseph Green, some five or six years ago, and there is no doubt about their history. It seems, however, very desirable that some account of the MS. notes should be given to the public by the Museum, for the notes of Coleridge on such different authors as Shakspeare and Schelling, Herder and Malthus, would be of very unlike originality and value.

The question of handwriting adds a fresh difficulty. Among the books is the quarto copy of the Essay of Malthus on Population (1803). Its broad margins are covered with a running commentary and criticism, part in pencil, part in ink, amounting, when read together, to a review of the entire book. Now it is a striking fact that these notes on the essay occur, with hardly the change of a letter, in a review by Southey of the same work, in Aikin's *Annual Review* for the year 1803. To which poet did the real authorship of the notes belong? The question has been answered by Mr. Richard Garnett, of the British Museum, who has kindly taken the trouble to look closely at the handwriting. He finds that on at least two pages the handwriting of the notes is that of Southey, not of Coleridge; and he supposes that Coleridge found the arguments, and freely gave them over to Southey. In support of this opinion Mr. Garnett relies on expressions in the MS. where Coleridge seems to address a would-be reviewer: "Quote this paragraph as the first sentence of your review." On the other hand, Southey, in his *Letters*, claims the article as his own, and makes no acknowledgment of debt to Coleridge or to anyone else. Perhaps some admirer of Southey will explain this silence. Coleridge, no doubt, would have jotted down his thoughts as readily on a friend's book as on his own; but, if this particular volume was borrowed at all, it was apparently not borrowed from Southey. Coleridge writes on its fly-leaf: "E dono D. Stuart armigeri, S. T. Coleridge." J. BONAR.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

London: Nov. 2, 1885.

Permit me, as one of the professors of University College, to assure you that you are misinformed when you state that that body have, by a unanimous vote, expressed their dissatisfaction with the scheme of the special committee of the convocation of the University of London. A meeting of professors was held to consider this subject a fortnight ago, and certain resolutions were carried; but the meeting, having been called by inadvertence at an hour already fixed for an important committee, I was unable to be present, and I believe that many of my colleagues were likewise absent.

The view which I hold with regard to a future University of London is that it should be a professorial university governed by its professors, as are the German and Scotch universities; and in this view, I believe, many of my colleagues agree. We are, therefore, not "satisfied" with the scheme of the committee of convocation; and I, for one, think it important that we should take steps to put forward our views in as authoritative a manner as possible.

At the same time this appears to me to be a position entirely compatible with warm approbation of the proposals made by the committee of convocation for the reformation of the University of London as at present constituted. Those proposals do not embody my ideal; but they may possibly lead towards it, and, at any rate, offer an immense improvement on the present condition of things. They are also, in my judgment, greatly to be preferred to what I will venture to call the extraordinary scheme sketched in your article of October 31.

It seems to me that for any body of men to endeavour to thwart a practical proposal of reform, of the beneficence of which they are convinced, because it does not carry out their furthest aspirations, which are necessarily only to be realised in a somewhat remote future, is an altogether unreasonable and unworthy course; and I cannot for a moment admit that the professors of University College are likely to enter upon such a course. It is one thing not to be "satisfied" with a slice only of the loaf, and another thing to refuse to eat that slice oneself, and also to prevent any one else from eating it.

Among the conflicting interests, opinions and prejudices which centre round the question of the University of London, it appears to me that the scheme drawn up Lord Justice Fry has the best chance of gaining a majority in convocation, and of effecting some useful change in the present organisation of Burlington Gardens; and, accordingly, I would do all in my power to carry it through.

The only item in the scheme to which I feel a distinct objection (and I understand that this objection is shared by others who are prepared to take steps for its removal) is the admission of the Class C of constituent colleges—viz., those "which are intended to aid the evening studies of persons engaged in business." Such institutions are, in my opinion, of great value to the community, but should not be allowed to introduce a discordant element into the faculties of the university, the business of which lies in a different direction. The effective working of a composite body, such as the governing body of any university must be, depends upon the identity of interests of the individuals composing that body. The failure of convocations and congregations, both at Oxford and Cambridge and in London, to render anything like assistance to the government of the university is due to the fact that only a small proportion of their members can possibly feel any healthy interest in the real business of the university.

The alternative scheme for the reform of the University of London—which is sketched in your issue of this week—has two radical defects, according to my judgment—a judgment which may, I am aware, find opposition among some whose opinions are, I fully admit, entitled to consideration and respect.

The first defect is the proposal to imitate the organisation of the University of Oxford. To me, knowing very intimately the working of that organisation, this is simply astounding. Oxford exists in spite of a governing machinery, which those who know her best—from Goldwin Smith onwards—regard as both pernicious and ridiculous. To imitate this machinery in London would be as reasonable as to base political reform on an imitation of the Turkish empire. The second defect is the proposal to give increased powers to convocation. There is current a complete misconception as to the origin of the powers of convocation, or the body of graduates in our old universities, and as to the value of its interference in university management. Originally the graduates who took part in the government of the university at Oxford and at Cambridge were simply and solely the resident teaching masters of arts, or those who were licensed to teach. The practical extension of certain powers of voting upon statutes to all masters of arts of Oxford and Cambridge who keep their names registered and pay certain fees—is a disastrous innovation which has come in with the increased facilities for travelling afforded by railways. This voting by masters of arts who are not concerned in the teaching and studies—that is the actual business of the university—is an unmitigated evil. In no other universities in the world do the graduates exercise these powers, even where they possess a feeble right of protest, as in the University of Edinburgh: only the universities of Oxford and Cambridge among older universities are cursed with this "old man of the sea." Why the newly founded University of London should have been subjected to a convocation, it is difficult to imagine—unless it is that those who drew up its constitution believed that two blacks make a white, and created it as a balance to the equally ill-devised senate.

I cannot believe that the individual members of convocation of the University of London are such strangely constituted persons as to care about continually meddling in the management of an institution which happened to give them in past days a certificate of proficiency in science, art, medicine or law. It really cannot matter to them what the university does in the future, and, if it did, it would matter to them in so many divergent ways that they could not carry out details of administration without an immense amount of friction and waste of energy. The persons to whom it does really matter most seriously are the teachers in various London colleges; and the recognition by Lord Justice Fry's committee of this fact is a proof that there is a distinguished body of men in the university who are by no means anxious to increase their responsibility as members of convocation. It is sincerely to be hoped that a majority of convocation will take the same view.

I trust that members of convocation will not be bribed into voting against Lord Justice Fry's scheme either by the worthless promise of increased power, or by the crude suggestion made by its opponents of "university lecture-ships of limited tenure."

E. RAY LANKESTER.

JOHN HARVARD'S AUTOGRAPH.

Emmanuel College, Cambridge: Oct. 28, 1885.

Mr. E. Dicey, in the ACADEMY of October 24, denies with great confidence that the entrance of John Harvard's name in the Emmanuel College

book is an autograph. I believe, however, that this is by no means as certain as he thinks it to be. I must premise that Mr. Dicey has fallen into an inaccuracy as to the spelling of the name. It appears plainly in our book as Harvard, not Harverd. Again, his account of the book does not at all adequately describe it. It contains besides these *recepta ab ingredientibus*, lists of entrances from the first opening of the college, disciplinary orders from 1586 signed by the master and fellows, lists of college plate and of books in the library, *exits* and *redits*. In fact, it is a record of the internal proceedings of the college from its earliest year of activity for a considerable period. It will be evident that in such a book autograph signatures would be more probable than in a mere account book. But an examination of the name itself as written would, I think, make it appear very probable to anyone that it is John Harvard's autograph. For—

1. It corresponds in almost every letter to the signature in the University degree book. The final *d* in Harvard is especially marked in both, being finished off with a bold loop something in the nature of a small Greek delta. Other letters are nearly as remarkable for their resemblance in both cases.

2. Though in many cases whole blocks of names are evidently entered by the same hand, yet in several pages there is a great variety of handwriting, which seems to point to individual signatures.

3. In the page in which John Harvard's name appears there does not seem to me to be any other name in the same handwriting.

4. After John Harvard's name is the abbreviation *Midsex*; out of five other entries in the same and opposite pages it is once written *Middlesex*, four times *Midlesex*, never *Midlsex*. This, again, looks like an individual peculiarity.

It is true that these remarks do not make the fact asserted by Dr. Rendle certain; and it is true, also, that the name in our book is somewhat less boldly and firmly written than that in the University book, but I think I have said enough to show that Dr. Rendle's assertion cannot be rightly described as not having a "shadow of foundation."

E. S. SHUCKBURGH.

"MILTON AND VONDEL."

Middle Temple: Nov. 3, 1885.

As a student and appreciator of Vondel, I may perhaps be permitted to make one or two remarks on the controversy between Mr. Gosse and Mr. Edmundson. In the letter which appeared in last week's ACADEMY, the latter has confined himself to a criticism of Mr. Gosse's translation and a justification of his own; but it seems to me, and I fancy most authorities will agree with me, that for various reasons Mr. Gosse's version is to be preferred. One of the chief of these is that a translator of Vondel ought as far as possible to preserve the outward form of the original. Vondel was a thoroughly—shall I say—artificial writer, and frequently himself tells us that in writing his tragedies he kept the dramatic laws of Aristotle constantly before him. Now, one result of this has been to make the outward form of his tragedies one of their chief merits, and the adoption of such a metre as Mr. Edmundson employs cannot but destroy a great deal of the force of the original. No doubt Mr. Gosse's version is open to criticism. I cannot but think, for example, he is in error in his translation of "karos," "Chariot" is a much more poetical word than "coach." In addition to the two passages known to Mr. Edmundson, the phrase occurs again in *Maria Stuart*, v. 447: "Gevolleght in 't verschiep van paerden en karossen," the only difference being that we have here the plural case.

With reference to the proof of the connection between Vondel and Milton, it appears to me that very little reliance can be placed on mere parallelisms of expression. These can only form a part of the proof, and a very small part, and unaccompanied by other facts would not have much weight. Looking, however, at the matter from every point of view it seems more than probable that Milton was acquainted with Vondel's works, and that very soon after they were respectively published. In his essay Mr. Gosse admits, indeed, that "the Dutch language was not so little studied" in Vondel's time as it is now; but he almost passes over those other strong historical facts bearing on the question, which cannot fail to impress an unprejudiced mind. Notice, for example, ought to be taken of the fact that in the beginning of the seventeenth century Holland was at the height of its prosperity, its merchant-men were, so to speak, the world's common carriers, as a maritime power it was among the first in Europe, its fleet gained more than one victory over the English, and on one occasion threatened to destroy even London itself.

At this period, too, there were in Holland many English refugees—Nonconformists and others; but of these some were constantly returning to their own country, carrying with them, no doubt, much information about the Netherlands. Mr. Gosse must surely have made a slip of the pen when he applied the term "obscure poetry" to the works of the writer of the *Palamedes*, who acquired such a fame during life as to be styled on the medal which was struck in commemoration of his funeral, "the oldest and greatest poet." Without doubt his fame was not confined to the Netherlands, and those Englishmen who were passing at that time from one country to the other must have been acquainted with his story. Besides, it must always be borne in mind that Milton's original intention was to treat the subject of his *Paradise Lost* in dramatic form, and therefore if he took the idea from the *Lucifer* it is all the more to his credit, as a poet, that he perceived the mistake which Vondel made in making the *Lucifer* a drama instead of an epic poem.

J. R. MACILRAITH.

APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY, Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Muscles of the Human Body," II., by Prof. J. Marshall.

TUESDAY, Nov. 10, 8 p.m. Anthropological Institute: Opening remarks by the President, Mr. Francis Galton; "Experiments on Testing the Characters of School Children," by Mrs. Bryant; "A Comparative Estimate of Jewish Ability," by Mr. Joseph Jacobs.

8 p.m. Civil Engineers: "The Theory of the Indicator and the Errors in Indicator Diagrams," by Prof. Osborne Reynolds; "Experiments on the Steam Engine Indicator," by Mr. A. W. Brightmore.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 11, 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Muscles of the Human Body," III., by Prof. J. Marshall.

8 p.m. Microscopical: "Some New and Rare Desmids," by Mr. W. B. Turner; "The Amplifying Power of a Lens or Objective," by Dr. E. Giltay; "Limits of Resolution in the Microscope," by Mr. F. Crisp; "Microbiological Technique," by Dr. E. Crookshank.

THURSDAY, Nov. 12, 8 p.m. Mathematical: Annual Meeting; "Waves propagated along the Plane Surface of an Elastic Solid," by Lord Rayleigh; "The Application of Clifford's Graphs to ordinary Binary Quantities," by Mr. A. B. Kempe; "Curvilinear Curves," by Mr. E. A. Roberts; "Clifford's Theory of Graphs," and "The Linear Co-variants of the Quintic and a Calculus connected with the Theory of Rows," by Mr. A. Buchheim; "Some Consequences of the Transformation Formula $y = \sin(A + B + C \dots)$," by Mr. J. Griffiths.

8 p.m. Telegraph Engineers: "The Telegraphs of the Nile Expedition," by Gen. Webber.

FRIDAY, Nov. 13, 8 p.m. Royal Academy: "The Face," by Prof. J. Marshall.

8 p.m. New Shakspere: "The Play of Richard III.," by the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke.

SATURDAY, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. Physical: "Testing Thermometers at the Melting Point of Mercury," by Mr. G. M. Whipple; "The Electromotive Force of certain Tin Cells," by Mr. E. F. Herroun.

SCIENCE.

Louis Agassiz: his Life and Correspondence. Edited by Elizabeth Cary Agassiz. In 2 vols. (Macmillan.)

AMONG the chief scientific names of the middle decades of the nineteenth century the name of Agassiz will always stand forth in full prominence with a certain brilliant and melancholy glory all its own. To few men does science owe more; from few men did its main achievement in the present age receive more steadfast, sturdy, and unreasoning opposition. A creature of impulse, urged forward from the beginning by an enthusiasm of knowledge no less contagious among those with whom his lot was cast than the enthusiasm of religion or the enthusiasm of humanity in great preachers and great philanthropists, Agassiz, with all his width and depth and electric personality, was, nevertheless, cramped and hidebound from his boyhood upward by the restraining limitations of his Swiss sectarian theological prejudices. Two wonderful life-works he accomplished successfully. In the first place, his researches among fishes, living and extinct, resulted in the earliest classification with any pretence to the claim of naturalness in that most difficult department of vertebrate zoology. In the second place, to him more than to any other single man do we owe the discovery and triumphant demonstration of the existence and extent of the glacial epoch. Yet, through some strange fatality, the very thinker who by his theory of synthetic or prophetic types securely laid one of the main corner-stones on which Darwin was afterwards destined to rear his magnificent superstructure of the Origin of Species, himself refused to the very last, with true Celtic obstinacy and doggedness, to accept the natural and obvious conclusion from the facts he had in person so clearly proved and so admirably marshalled. In this matter a dense veil seemed to cloud and obscure his ardent intellect. But the aberrations of so great a mind may fairly be excused on the excellent ground of previous general good conduct. He loved nature much, and to him, therefore, much may be forgiven.

Jean Louis Rodolphe Agassiz was born on May 28, 1807, at the parsonage of Motier, on the Lake of Morat, in Canton Vaud. His life divides itself into two nearly equal halves—the one European, the other American. Brought up among the pretty sub-Alpine hills, the boy displayed his love of beasts and birds, but especially of fishes, from his earliest childhood; a love which afterwards slowly widened out by imperceptible degrees into scientific interest and anatomical knowledge. Educated at Lausanne, Zürich, and Heidelberg, he was practically bilingual from the first, and therefore the more readily able to transplant himself successfully, on the verge of forty, to a new country and a new tongue. Mrs. Agassiz, a thoroughly competent person in every respect, has translated her husband's polyglott correspondence with great felicity, and has told the story of his life with a simple directness admirably in keeping with the habits and character of her simple-minded hero. The smoothness of Agassiz's younger days reads almost like a fairy tale to those of us whose lot has been cast in these latterday times of crowded competition. At twenty-

one he was already engaged in arranging Spix's Brazilian fishes, the tractate describing them being written in Latin and dedicated to Cuvier. At twenty-three, when he visited Vienna, he found himself received as a well-known associate in all the scientific society of a great capital. Soon after, we see him mixing freely at Paris in the company of Cuvier, Humboldt, and Ferussac. At twenty-five his appointment to the chair of natural history at Neuchâtel put him beyond the period of struggle and adventure, and enabled him to devote his whole time and his unrivalled energy to the cause of science, freed from the petty sordid care *de lodiçe paranda*. So sudden a rise would now be simply impossible, even for the brilliant and precocious intellect of an Agassiz in person.

Teaching was, with Agassiz, not only a gift; it was a passion, an enthusiasm, an attractive influence. At Neuchâtel, his success was extraordinary.

"He was intellectually as well as socially a democrat," says his wife, "in the best sense. He delighted to scatter broadcast the highest results of thought and research, and to adapt them even to the youngest and most uninformed minds. In his later American travels he would talk of glacial phenomena to the driver of a country stage-coach among the mountains, or to some workman, splitting rock at the roadside, with as much earnestness as if he had been discussing problems with a brother geologist; he would take the common fisherman into his scientific confidence, telling him the intimate secrets of fish-structure or fish-embryology, till the man in his turn grew enthusiastic, and began to pour out information from the stores of his own rough and untaught habits of observation. Agassiz's general faith in the susceptibility of the popular intelligence, however untrained, to the highest truths of nature, was contagious, and he created or developed that in which he believed.

When Agassiz was twenty-seven he published the first number of the *Poissons Fossiles*. That great work, the earlier of his two chief title-deeds to fame, contained among its most novel results the remodelling of the classification, and especially the recognition of the Ganoids as a distinct order, so pregnant of after consequences in zoological development, as well as the discovery of the combinations of bird-like and quasi-reptilian characters in the early geological fishes, and of the analogy existing between embryological phases and the introduction of the various successive types upon the face of the earth. In pointing out these admirable theories Agassiz was all unwillingly and unwittingly leading up to the later evolutionism, whose most stubborn enemy he was destined to show himself.

"Except for the frequent allusion to a creative thought or plan," says Mrs. Agassiz, "his introduction to the Fishes of the Old Red might seem to be written by an advocate of the development theory rather than by its most determined opponent, so much does it deal with laws of the organic world now used in support of evolution."

But to Agassiz the coincidence between geological succession, embryonic development, zoological gradation, and the geographical distribution of animals and plants in the past and the present, rested not upon any material connexion, but upon a supposed intellectual coherence in the mind of the Creator. He

fancied he could fathom the thoughts of God. Fully accepting all the premisses of evolutionism, he denied the obvious and almost irresistible conclusion. From first to last, the scheme of the universe unrolled itself definitely before his eyes, not as the product of self-contained evolution, but as the result of a designing anthropomorphic intelligence.

Nevertheless, where teleological preconceptions did not outbalance his scientific judgment, Agassiz was capable of the saving grace of reconsideration and frank recantation. His first researches in glacial phenomena were brought about, indeed, by an incredulous visit to Charpentier at Bex, for the sake of exploding the absurd claims made, as he believed, in error by that too enthusiastic apostle of glacial extension. But he who went to mock remained to investigate. Facts were too much for him: moraines and *roches moutonnées* and glacial striae were demonstrated visibly all over the valley to the naked eye; and, as there was no fundamental preconception here to bias his decision, Agassiz forthwith opened his eyes and became the veritable Paul of the glacial creed. His *Études sur les Glaciers* fairly made the great Ice Age. From that day forth the existence of an epoch of universal glaciation throughout the length and breadth of both temperate zones became a prime article of the orthodox geological faith. He lived to see his own belief universally endorsed by catholic geology.

In 1846, when Agassiz was thirty-nine, he went to America. At first, his visit was meant to be a visit only; but circumstances turned it into a permanent residence, and the welcome he received from critical Boston decided him to remain beyond the Atlantic, living over a new life in a new land. The first Mme. Agassiz died during her husband's absence; and a second marriage with the lady who is now his biographer bound him at once by ties of closest relationship to his adopted country. Indeed, that fresh union with an English-speaking wife must have helped to give to Agassiz's two lives an organic distinctness seldom attained by any single individuality in this brief world of ours. Nevertheless, the new Agassiz was the old Agassiz still. At Cambridge, as at Neuchâtel, his fiery but genial individuality drew around him all the best spirits of the place. In a society which numbered among its members Longfellow, Lowell, Prescott, Ticknor, Motley, Holmes, and Asa Gray, Agassiz, by right of his personal qualities, still stepped almost at once into the first rank. The account of his earnest professorial life at Cambridge, his foundation of the museum now popularly, though not officially, called after his name, his pleasant summer days in his retreat at Nahant, and the prodigious effect produced in New England in part by his lectures, and still more by his personality, are all given by Mrs. Agassiz with the delightful freshness of first-hand narrative. Of the immense influence exerted by his character upon everyone who knew him little doubt can possibly exist. "There is hardly a naturalist to-day in all America," Dr. William James, of Harvard, once said enthusiastically to the present reviewer, "who doesn't owe his adoption of science to the mere accident of Agassiz's arriving one day in Boston, setting up there

his zoological laboratory, and preaching with all the magnetic energy of his fiery nature that the one thing worth doing for a young man of promise was to come to him at once and study biology." That is, perhaps, saying a great deal too much. In such an environment as the soil of New England naturalists indeed must spring spontaneous; but the very fact that Dr. James could assert it gives sufficient proof of the wonderful power of attraction possessed by the eager Vaudois zoologist. His later life was largely sacrificed to the cause of scientific education in America. When he ought to have been making fresh discoveries, he was engaged in collecting funds for his beloved museum. It was his fate to leave the Word of God and serve tables; but, in truth, his life's work was already finished. He had fairly reached the end of his tether. With the publication of Darwin's theory, he declined from the position of an accepted and respected scientific leader to that of a recalcitrant and reactionary scientific heresiarch. He could not digest the new doctrines. "I detest them," Sedgwick had written to him long before, "because I think them untrue." A strange perversion of the genuine fact: they thought them untrue because they detested them. In all Agassiz's violent denunciations on this cardinal point we nowhere come across one single reason, one definite argument, one gleam of the dry light of logic. Mere prejudice governed his conviction. Unhappily too—and see here how error in belief necessarily leads up to error in action—Agassiz was induced by his theoretic views on specific fixity into that pestilent heresy of asserting the total distinctness of the negro from the white man, thus directly playing into the hands of the unspeakable and doomed proslavery party. Such an error was the more unpardonable, because he had been in the south, and knew the negro; and the man who, knowing the negro, denies his essential community with ourselves, proves himself thereby a bad systematist, a worse psychologist, and a worst humanitarian. Of evolutionism he said cheerily "I trust to outlive this mania also." That prediction was not destined to be realised. It is given to no man to outlive humanity.

He lies buried in the beautiful and romantic cemetery at Mount Auburn, near Boston. A boulder chosen from the glacier of the Aar marks the grave of the prophet of the Great Ice Age: pine trees sent from his beloved Switzerland are fast growing up to shelter it with their shade. Let them protect a noble heart from passing censure. What he saw wrongly will soon be forgotten: what he saw rightly will last for ever. GRANT ALLEN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ARCHDUKE RAINER'S COLLECTION OF PAPYRI.
Vienna: Oct. 23, 1885.

The *Neue Freie Presse* of October 23 contains a highly interesting report of recent discoveries made by Prof. Karabacek and Drs. Wessely and Krall in the course of their exploration of the Archduke Rainer's already famous collection of papyri.

The chief results affecting the Greek classics are the discovery of a papyrus with about two hundred verses from the *ἔργα καὶ ἡμέραι* and the *ᾠδαὶ* of Hesiod, which is older than all the

known MSS.; of a fragment in uncial characters of the *Argonautica* of Apollonius Rhodius, which agrees in a remarkable manner with the readings of the *Codex Florentinus*; and of a fragment of the *Odyssey* dating from the second century A.D. This last piece is particularly valuable, as hitherto no papyri of the *Odyssey* have been met with. Among the numerous private papers in the Greek language, lately examined, there are a good many with dates from the reigns of Trajan, Hadrian, Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius, which throw much light on details of the civilisation of that period. Historically important are: a document drawn up during the short reign of the emperors Macrianus and Quietus, A.D. 261; and another, which mentions Pupienus, Balbinus, and Gordianus the younger as co-regents.

The Coptic papyri have yielded large fragments of the translation in the Saidic dialect of a Greek work on Penance and Continence by one of the Fathers of the Church, Johannes Chrysostomus; and a set of very curious instructions concerning the manner of framing the lists of taxes, issued at the beginning of an *indictio* (in the ninth century) by Rashid, the Arab receiver-general in Egypt, to his subordinates. This is the only official document in the Coptic language that has hitherto been found. It proves that in the first centuries after the conquest of Egypt Arabic was not the only language used for public business. A long Arabic letter of the beginning of the ninth century, written by a Jew in square Hebrew characters, is most valuable for determining the ancient pronunciation of Arabic. The method of transcription differs in many respects from that used in later times by Jewish scholars. The use of the Hebrew characters in this document must probably be explained by a temporary renewal of the order of the Khalif Omar, which forbade the use of Arabic letters to Jews and Christians.

Perhaps the most important find made is a strip of paper, 42 centimeters by 8.5, containing Arabic prayers, among them one by a companion of the Prophet Abū Dujāna. It dates from the ninth century. The whole text, as well as some marginal ornaments, have been printed from a block of wood. It thus appears that the art of block printing was known to the Arabs more than five hundred years before it came into use among the Western nations. Perhaps we may assume that the Arabs received it from the Chinese and communicated it, like so many other elements of civilisation, to their European neighbours. G. BÜHLER.

SCIENCE NOTES.

THE first volume of *Geology, Chemical, Physical, and Stratigraphical*, by Prof. Joseph Prestwich, will be published immediately by the Clarendon Press. This work is a general treatise on geology adapted both for elementary and advanced students. Vol. i. treats of questions in chemical and physical geology, and special attention is paid to such subjects as hydro-geology, the geological bearings of the recent deep-sea explorations, volcanic action, joints, mineral veins, the age of mountain ranges, and metamorphism. Vol. ii., which is far advanced, treats of stratigraphy and palaeontology, and touches upon various theoretical questions. The author advocates the non-uniformitarian views of geology. The book is copiously illustrated with woodcuts, maps, and plates.

MRS. BRYANT, of the North London Collegiate School, the first lady who has taken the degree of D.Sc. at the University of London, will read a paper at the Anthropological Institute next Tuesday evening. In this communication, which is likely to prove highly suggestive, she will describe some experiments which she has lately undertaken for the purpose of

testing the character of children. We understand that her method is to introduce the children to a room which they have never entered before, and, after allowing them to remain there for a few minutes, to remove them and require them to write a description of what they have seen. From these written returns Mrs. Bryant attempts an analysis of the character of each child, and by practice has found it possible to assign comparative numerical values to many of their faculties. It is obvious that in anthropology there is wide scope for the work of women, and indeed a "Womens' Anthropological Society" has lately been founded at Washington.

THE sixty-ninth Session of the Institution of Civil Engineers will be opened on Tuesday, November 10, when the first business will be the formal presentation, by the president, of the premiums and prizes awarded for papers submitted last session, after which a discussion will be taken on "The Steam Engine Indicator" and on "Errors in Indicator Diagrams."

PHILOLOGY NOTES.

A COPY of Part II. of Dr. Murray's new English Dictionary is to be laid on the table at the Philological Society's first meeting of this session on Friday, November 6.

GEN. SIR FREDERICK GOLDSMID has been appointed secretary to the Royal Asiatic Society, in the room of the late Mr. Vaux.

A DISTINGUISHED Sanskrit scholar, Prof. Garbe, of Königsberg, has gone on a pilgrimage to Puna and Benares. He will stay about a year in India, and study, in particular, the Indian philosophical system. The Prussian Government has sent him and given him a liberal allowance. Dr. Hultsch, of Vienna, has received an offer of the post of epigraphist in the Madras Presidency.

THE library of the late H. A. J. Munro is to be sold at Cambridge on Monday, November 16, and the four following days.

THE Clarendon Press will publish, in a few days, Mr. Jowett's translation of *The Politics of Aristotle*, with introduction, marginal analysis, essays, notes and indices. This work has been many years in preparation, and was originally undertaken for the purpose of illustrating the *Laws of Plato*. Vol. i. contains the introduction and translation, and vol. ii., part i., the notes; part ii., the publication of which is unavoidably postponed for a time, will contain nine essays on various subjects of interest arising out of the study of the *Politics*. The author has in all respects followed the canons of interpretation by which he was guided in his English versions of Plato and Thucydides. The work is dedicated to the Rev. William Rogers, rector of Bishopsgate.

MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.—(Wednesday, Oct. 28.)

THE third annual general meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund was held at 3 p.m. in the theatre of the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, by permission of the managers. The chair was taken by Mr. C. T. Newton, C.B., who opened the proceedings by stating that letters and messages expressing regret at their inability to attend the meeting had been received from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Excellency the French Ambassador, the Earls of Aberdeen, Duncannon, and Wharfedale, the Earl Percy, the Lord Wynford, the Dean of Windsor, Gen. Sir Charles Wilson, Sir John Fowler, K.C.M.G., Mr. William Fowler, M.P., Mr. Villiers Stuart, M.P., and Mr. Sheldon Amos. Mr. Newton next read over a list of newly-elected vice-presidents and officers of the fund; the Rev. W. C. Winslow, M.A. (who is also hon. treasurer for America), and Mr. Henry

Willett, of Brighton, being nominated vice-presidents; and Sir John Fowler, Mr. William Fowler, M.P., and Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, Keeper of the MSS., British Museum, being appointed members of the committee. Also, as hon. secretary for Australia, Josiah Mullens, Esq., of Sydney, and as hon. secretary for the Dominion of Canada, H. R. Ives, Esq., of Montreal. These appointments were unanimously carried. The Chairman then made some remarks upon the work done on account of the fund during the past year by Mr. W. M. Flinders Petrie, who was assisted in his labours by Mr. F. Llewellyn Griffith, the Egyptologist student attached to the fund. It was with peculiar satisfaction, said the Chairman, that he called special attention to the unearthing of the unspeakably precious remains of the Græco-Egyptian city of Naukratis by Mr. Flinders Petrie in connexion with the fund. At the meeting of the Oriental Congress, held in London eleven years ago, he had himself remarked at some length on the vast importance of this great Hellenic settlement in the Delta of Egypt as likely to turn out one of the most interesting links of historical tradition in the world. Here the culture of Hellas in all its youthful prime first came face to face with her elder Egyptian sister in the time of the Psammetici and the other Pharaohs belonging to the Saitte dynasty commemorated by Herodotus. He was not unaware at the time of the great difficulties with which the problem of its identification would be met; but in view of his own labours and successes at Branchidae and elsewhere in Asia Minor, he did not despair of the untying of the knot, and he was eagerly on the look-out for something of the kind to illustrate his own work and even to consolidate the results, chronological and archaeological, at which he had arrived. The Naukratis diggings had, indeed, far surpassed all his expectations; and he was sure all who had seen the collection of amphorce, oinochoæ, and other ceramic gems which had been on exhibition for some months past in the Vase Room of the British Museum, would share in the delight with which he had so often feasted his eyes upon them. There were there ample materials for comparison of this wonderful store of porcelain from Naukratis with that of Rhodes and other specimens from the Greek isles and mainland; plenty of archaic objects of all sorts in alabaster and the finest of potter's clays, illustrative of Hellenic arts and commerce. The Chairman added that he ought to mention Mr. Ernest Gardner's voluntary offer to resume Mr. Petrie's fruitful excavations, especially devoting his attention to palæogeographical research. Other branches of the inquiry centred in Tanis or Zoan of the Bible, but on this head he would call on Mr. Poole, who was more familiar with the subject than he himself professed to be.—Mr. R. Stuart Poole (hon. secretary) stated that the objects brought by Mr. Petrie from Tanis (Zoan) had arrived in this country, and might soon be seen on exhibition in the British Museum. These objects were calculated to richly illustrate the history, religion, and domestic life of this interesting district. Mr. Poole then went on to say that the papyri found by Mr. Petrie in the ruins of private houses in Tanis had now been skilfully laid down. They had been seen by Prof. Revillout, of the Louvre, our first authority on the demotic writing, who had pronounced the demotic specimens (which constitute the majority) to be of very high interest. Prof. Revillout is, however, unwilling to report upon these documents before subjecting them to a closer examination, after which he will produce an important analysis of those documents. An exhaustive report (shortly to be published) had in the meanwhile been prepared by Mr. Griffith upon a unique papyrus containing a list of hieroglyphic signs with transliterations into the hieratic script, each sign accompanied by its name in the same character. This report, Mr. Poole said, had been approved and passed by M. Naville, who found it to be perfectly correct. Mr. Petrie had also presented a report, which Mr. Griffith had edited, upon a geographical temple-list similar to those published by Dr. Brugsch, but with important variants. It contained the name of Khufu, of the IVth Dynasty, the builder of the Great Pyramid, twice repeated, either as founder of his territorial arrangement with its priestly organisation, or possibly as founder of Zoan. Referring to the lecture which M. Naville was

that evening to deliver upon "Goshen," Mr. Poole said that the audience would then and there have the opportunity of learning all that was known to science upon that important topographical question. No living Egyptologist was more cautious than M. Naville; not one was more thoroughly scholar-like; and the identification of sites in the land of Goshen, which would by-and-by be laid before his hearers, would be second in interest only to his discovery of the far-famed store-city of Pithom. Goshen he had found to be the eastern half of the Delta; but he (M. Naville) placed it further to the southward than did other geographers, and consequently nearer to Heliopolis, the On of the Egyptians and of the Bible.—The Chairman deeply regretted that the Society's able treasurer, Mr. E. Gilbertson, was not present to read his financial statement. The sum of £1,431 had been received during the past year in the form of subscriptions and donations. Of this sum £546 had come from across the Atlantic, being collected and forwarded by the Society's American treasurer, the Rev. W. C. Winslow, of Boston. This total did not, however, include certain special funds, as the Student Fund and the Fowler Fund.—Miss Amelia B. Edwards (hon. secretary) then spoke upon the importance of the Fowler Fund. This fund was generously started by Mr. William Fowler, M.P., who had offered, in 1883, to give £50 for the excavation of the mounds of Zoan (Tanis), provided that nineteen other donors would give the like amount; thus raising a special fund of £1,000, the last donation to be given by the founder. Mr. Fowler had specified that the money should be employed at Zoan, not only because the site is one of extraordinary interest, but because it is also of such great extent that if the society were not merely to nibble at the surface here and there they must have a full purse to draw from. Miss Edwards pointed out that more than three years had now elapsed and the Fowler Fund was still uncompleted, £650 having up to the present time been paid in. Mr. Flinders Petrie had, however, just signified his generous intention of adding £50 to the paid-up subscriptions; and Mr. Gurney Barclay had promised another £50 as soon as £800 should be collected. Miss Edwards then dwelt upon the desirability of continuing the excavations at Zoan (Tanis), and appealed to her hearers to co-operate in the effort to obtain further subscribers to this fund. Two or more members of a family, or two or more friends, might combine to make up a £50 donation, and so help to bridge over the gulf which separated the latest donor from Mr. Gurney Barclay, and that other chasm which separated Mr. Gurney Barclay from Mr. William Fowler. [It may here be mentioned that Miss Edwards's appeal was so far successful that, at the close of the meeting, Mr. D. Parrish, an American gentleman, added his name to the list of donors to the Fowler Fund, thus raising the paid-up total to £750.] Miss Edwards also sketched the probable programme of the coming season. Mr. Petrie will resume work at Naukratis. Leaving this work after a while to the superintendence of Mr. Ernest Gardner, he (Mr. Petrie) will then proceed with Mr. Griffith to either the principal cemetery of Zoan or to another equally promising site in that direction. M. Naville also, it was hoped, would be induced to place a short portion of his valuable time at the service of the society, and so be enabled yet further to augment our knowledge of the Biblical cities of Egypt. Absorbed, though we knew him to be, Miss Edwards said, in *The Book of the Dead*, Mr. Naville must not be allowed to forget that he belongs pre-eminently to the Book of the Living.—Sir Charles Nicholson moved, and Dr. Hermann Weber seconded, and the meeting unanimously adopted a resolution presenting to the trustees of the British Museum an important and valuable collection of antiquities discovered by Mr. Petrie and M. Naville.—Mr. Bond, C.B., the principal librarian, returned thanks for the trustees, and recommended a formal application to the Government for a grant in aid of the important undertakings in which the society is engaged.—Mr. John Evans, F.R.S., moved a resolution to the effect "that this meeting presents to the Fine Art Museum, of Boston, U.S.A., with sincere thanks to the Rev. W. C. Winslow, Vice-President of the Egypt Exploration Fund, a selection of antiquities discovered by Mr. Petrie and M. Naville."—The motion was seconded by

Miss Edwards, who paid an earnest tribute to the sympathy and support received from our Transatlantic brethren and from the Transatlantic press. American orientalist and archaeologists had already taken an important stand among the scholars of the world; and no more substantial proof could be given of the interest with which America regards such researches as those in which the society is engaged than the recent formation of an American Oriental Society, of an American School at Athens, and of an American Commission for the explorations at Assos.—The American Minister said that it gave him the greatest pleasure, on behalf of the trustees of the Fine Art Museum, of Boston, to tender their acknowledgments for this valuable gift, their congratulations on the good work done by the fund, and their best hopes for further and future work. These objects would, undoubtedly, be so used and applied in Boston, called "the Athens of America," as to promote that interest in Egyptian history, and that practical co-operation in the work of Egyptian exploration, which he understood to be the main object of the society. He believed that the time was fast approaching when every enterprise for the extension of human knowledge, and for the alleviation or improvement of the general condition of mankind would find its co-ordinate branches on both sides of the Atlantic, and that the two countries would join hands for that purpose across the sea, which now no longer separated, but united them by a common highway. His Excellency went on to say that any branch of historical research which bore upon the confirmation or elucidation of the truths of the Christian religion could not be over-estimated, and that any man who contributed to the elucidation of those truths conferred a benefit upon the human race. He begged to thank the chairman for the warmth of his greeting, and in the name of his country he most heartily responded. The chairman would, however, permit him (Mr. Phelps) to correct him upon one point. The English and Americans were not cousins—they were brothers. The Atlantic no longer sundered them as of old. It united them by steam and by electricity. Votes of donations of antiquities to the museums of the Louvre, of Berlin, of Karlsruhe, Geneva, Bristol, Bolton, York, Liverpool, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Charterhouse School, &c.; including special donations to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, and the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, were then unanimously voted; and, with votes of thanks to the chairman, the hon. secretaries of the Egypt Exploration Fund, to the president, hon. secretary, and managers of the Royal Institution, and to the president and council of the Archaeological Institute, the proceedings terminated.

(Thursday, Oct. 23.)

M. Naville delivered a lecture on his last season's work for the Egypt Exploration Fund. It was matter of regret to him that the material results had not been so rich as before. The difficulties of discovery in the Delta, as compared with Upper Egypt, are due to the character of the country, which is wholly alluvial soil, and to the continuous demolition of monuments from the Roman period to the present time, no other stones but those of ancient temples being available for the needs of the abundant population. If, however, the results of this season are almost wholly scientific, we must remember that the determination of the obscure geography of the Delta is of the highest consequence in Biblical and Egyptian archaeology. M. Naville first excavated at Khataneh, not very far from Tanis, where he discovered remains of a temple of the remote age of the XIIth dynasty, anterior to the Shepherd rule, and probably to Abraham. The burial-place of this large city presented very rare vases of the epoch of the XIIIth dynasty, and burnt bones found in them showed the practice of cremation, though it was not certain that the bones were human. This is an extraordinary deviation from Egyptian custom as to both men and sacred animals. M. Naville's most important result was the identification of Saft-el-Henna, near Zagazig, a site of a large ancient town, with the capital of Goshen. The monuments found here had been mostly destroyed, but enough remained to show that a monolithic sanctuary of the date of Nec-

tanebo II., the last Pharaoh, stood here; and his statue, unhappily broken, was also rescued, and was exhibited to the audience, with drawings of the sculptures of the sanctuary. The name of Kesem, here found as that of the capital of the nome or province of Arabia, has been long identified with Goshen or Gesem, but no site had yet been surely fixed. We could now safely do this, and so fix also the territory of Arabia—first a district and then a nome. It is remarkable that this nome was first constituted by Rameses II., and we thus understand how the land of Goshen became the land of Rameses. The god Sopt, a form of the sun and a warlike divinity, was here revered as residing in a sacred sycamore. It may now be considered highly probable that the land of Goshen, exceeding in extent the Arabian nome, reached Pithom on the east and nearly Heliopolis or On on the south.

FINE ART.

SOME WINTER EXHIBITIONS.

MR. WALLIS has devoted one side of his "French Gallery" this year to a collection of pictures by Prof. L. C. Müller, all of which have in previous years been painted for him, and are now lent for exhibition by the several owners. Representing as it does the work of some ten years, the collection does not impress by its size; but Prof. Müller, broad in effect as his pictures are, does not belong to the modern slapdash school, but paints with exceeding care and patience. The result of this high respect for his art and his gifts is seen in the splendid quality of his pictures, which in strength, in colour, and light would completely overwhelm most modern work. Here is the famous "Cairene Café," with its intent tric-trac players and its statuesque coffee maker; here also is "The Guardian of the Sacred Well," which, as a piece of mere realistic painting of light and broken wall, could scarcely be excelled, while it is not less admirable for the dignity and simplicity of its design and the fine feeling in the figures. Scarcely less to be admired are the scenes in the desert, alive with animals and figures bathed in Eastern light, and each figure a lifelike study; and "An Alme's Admirers," with its admirably poised dancer and enamoured audience. As usual, there are here some fine works by Carl Heffner, but his large view of Windsor seems to us to be scarcely up to his usual mark, and there is a mannerism both in design and colour in his smaller works which begins to tell. The rest of the pictures are scarcely so good as we expect from Mr. Wallis; but we may except "Pursued" and "A Horse Fair in Germany," by W. Veltin, "Left to the Church," by C. Mayr Graz, "Dragging for Laurels," W. H. Bartlett, "Le Forgeron," by E. Allan-Schmidt, "Studying his Score," by Carl Rickelt, and some others.

The most striking picture at Messrs. Tooth's galleries is the "Ave Maria" of L. Bazzaro. Some white-robed monks are seen kneeling hastily and uncomfortably in a boat upon a lake or large pond, which is apparently in or near the grounds of their monastery. The startling effect of the picture is produced by the contrast of the reflections in the water. Behind, a long white wall, overtopped with trees, stretches right across the canvas. On this the warm low sun strikes and sends a vivid yellow reflection of it into the lake. In the front, where the boat floats, the deep blue sky is reflected; and dividing the blue from the yellow is the sombre and neutralising reflection of the tree-tops. It is a strong effect strongly realised, and the picture, as a whole, is impressive, if somewhat sensational. The English school is fairly represented here, especially by a very clever picture by Seymour Lucas, where we see a buxom young village maiden flirting with a soldier of the last century, to the dis-

comfiture of her civilian lover, who watches them jealously from the window-seat. There is a good large Leader, which would be still more enjoyable if it did not hang so close to a little gem of a landscape by T. Collier. Among other English landscapes are "Crossing the Common," by C. Smith, with a fine evening sky; a large and solemn wood-scene by Ernest Parton (not, we fancy, a very recent picture), and good examples of A. J. Hook, W. L. Wyllie, J. Clayton Adams, and others. Among the more notable of the foreign works are Hugo Salmon's "Communion," the head of a girl in white like a Bastien Lepage; a large picture of French harvesters by Léon Lhermitte; two pleasant heads by G. Jacquet; a fine small Van Marcke, and clever pictures by Binet, Heffner, Kuehl, Galofre, Madrazo, Sorbi, Schloesser, Senet, Luis Jimenez, &c. One of many artists with unpronounceable names is Brykierfeldiez, by whom there is a very spirited and well-painted scene called "Gossips." We are afraid to hazard a guess as to the nationality of the soldier who has left his white pony to flirt with a peasant girl; and we recommend to the consideration of Messrs. Tooth that it might be convenient to give a little more information in his catalogue about the foreign artists whom they introduce to the British public and about the locality of their subjects. It is not everybody who has heard of Brykierfeldiez, nor of Carmiericke, to say nothing of Crachorski and Kleazyinski. In a smaller room are some old friends, including Alma-Tadema's "Seasons," and Hook's "Wild Harbourage," and there is also a charming and new Edouard Frère.

At McLean's Gallery is the picture which first brought Munkacsy to fame. It looks rather black, this "Last Day of the Condemned," but it is doubtful whether the artist has ever painted anything with a finer dramatic sense, or with greater power. Of the newer pictures the finest is "A Shepherdess, Brittany," by Pierre Billet, a study in the Millet vein, but original and fine both in expression and colour. Abounding in character, truly studied, and very dexterous in execution, is Benlliure's "Preaching in a Parish Church in Valencia, Spain." It is a pity it is so grimy and crude in colour. Open to much the same praise and blame is "Les Offrandes à Notre Dame de la Salut," by A. Mas y Fondevilla. The collection also includes a choice example of Andreotti, "The Vintner's Daughter"; a good but rather dull and empty Israels; a nice little Edouard Frère; a clever, but rather vulgar, Madrazo; a very pretty figure of a lady putting on her gloves for "The Morning Walk," by V. Brozik, and minor examples of Rosa Bonheur, Albert Moore, Sir J. D. Linton, L. W. Hawkins, G. H. Boughton, Roybet, Reuben, and other good artists too numerous to mention.

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE CAMPANILE OF ST. MARK AT VENICE.

London: Oct. 30, 1885.

Last July, under the superintendence of the able Venetian antiquary, Signor Giacomo Boni, a hole was dug at the N.W. angle of the great Campanile in the Piazza of St. Mark with a view to discover the materials and construction of its foundations—a point of especial interest, as it can obviously have been no easy matter to construct a safe bed for a building of such enormous height and mass on the rather treacherous bottom of a Venetian lagoon. Though it is close upon a thousand years since this foundation was constructed the Campanile yet remains without visible settlement, and is almost, if not absolutely, without inclination from the perpendicular. On reaching a depth of about two feet five inches below the present

paving of the Piazza an older pavement made of "herring-bone" brickwork was discovered. This is the pavement shown in Gentile Bellini's great picture of the square of St. Mark, painted shortly before the year 1500.

The Campanile, which is built of brick, rests on a plinth of massive stonework, with three offsets or footings visible above the modern level of the Piazza; two other offsets are hidden between the present and old pavement, so that originally its visible plinth consisted of five stone footings. Below this once visible plinth are seven courses of massive stone blocks, finishing at the bottom with a course nearly three feet thick, which rests on a double layer of stout oak planks, laid crosswise. This oaken floor rests on a mass of closely driven piles, formed (strange to say) of posts only about eight inches in diameter, not of oak, but of the soft white poplar which grows in the neighbourhood of the Venetian lagoons.

The area of this wooden platform is only a few inches larger than that of the stone base of the Campanile, and depends for its solidity on the extreme density of the clay bed into which the piles are driven. Though nearly ten centuries have elapsed since this foundation was constructed, the wood, both the oak and the white poplar, are well preserved, and have not lost their ligneous and fibrous character—thanks to the preserving influence of the dense clay in which they are embedded. The piles are made each of a small tree, roughly rounded, and the oak planks of trees rudely squared and then sawn in half.

Sig. Boni notes that at an early period in the history of Venice it was the custom to use local woods, such as the oak, the poplar, and the elm; but that later on, when the Venetian territory had become more extended, the fine conifers from the lower slopes of the Alps came into use. Thus he has discovered that the foundations of the Doge's Palace, constructed early in the fourteenth century, rest on a double layer of planks of red larch-wood from Cadore.

There is also an important difference in the method of constructing the foundations of the older Campanile and of the Doge's Palace. In the first case piles are driven in, forming a wooden base, with very little spread beyond the base of the tower; in the second case, that of the palace, no piles are used, but a very extended base is formed by a large series of projecting footings, so that the weight is distributed over a much larger surface than that of the visible base of the walls or columns. The stone of which the large foundation blocks of the Campanile are formed is very various. Several kinds of trachyte and porphyry occur—grey, red, and green, and also some of the fine hard Istrian limestone, which is also used in the tomb of Theodoric at Ravenna, with its marvellous dome cut out of one solid block of stone. The porphyritic stones employed are of extreme hardness, and their use implies a wonderful amount of patient labour on the part of the ninth-century workmen. The mortar in which the blocks are set is made of the weak white Istrian lime mixed with sand, and this has mostly perished, owing to the lime possessing no hydraulic qualities. In the oldest part of the Doge's Palace the same weak lime was used, without any admixture of sand; but after the year 1424 the stronger "black lime" of Albetone was employed with much improved results. The fact is, however, that when large and carefully squared blocks of stone are used it matters but little what the quality of the mortar is, or whether any mortar is used at all. Thus, in many of the most carefully constructed buildings of ancient Rome no mortar at all is used, and in other cases it is merely a thin stratum of pure lime, laid there, not to bind the blocks together, but merely to give their beds

a more smoothly fitting surface. An interesting paper, illustrated with a very minute and careful drawing, to record these discoveries about the foundations of the Campanile, has been published by Sig. Boni in the *Archivio Veneto* (Serie II.), vol. xxix., part 2.

J. H. MIDDLETON.

ROMAN INSCRIPTIONS AT WHITLEY CASTLE AND SOUTH SHIELDS.

Liverpool: Oct. 31, 1885.

There has just been discovered at the Roman station of Whitley Castle, near Alston, the right-hand lower corner of an inscribed Roman tablet. The letters—few in number—upon it are important. They are

OS III VI
O LEG
S PR BR.

and evidently refer to an imperial legate whose term of office was during the third consulate of some emperor, (c)'s III. being the commencement of the remaining part. I am inclined to read *co(n)sul* III. *Vi(ri)o* (*Lup*) *Leg(ato)* *Aug(usti)* *co(n)s(ulari)* *Pr(orinciae)* *Br(itanniae)*. *Sub* will have to be taken as understood before *Virio*. The letters BR at the end are plain, and are not PR for *praetore*. The third consulate of Septimius Severus was in A.D. 202; and, as he was never consul a fourth time, the numeral III. followed the abbreviation COS in all inscriptions in which his name occurred after that date, and in which his consulships were mentioned.

Virius Lupus was legate in Britain, as we know from other sources, in A.D. 197; but in A.D. 205 we find Lucius Alfenius Senecio holding that title. Whether Lupus was in our island the whole of the intervening time has hitherto been unknown, but from this inscription I think we may gather that he was here as late as A.D. 202, if not later.

At South Shields a small altar, 2 feet 3 inches in height, of sandstone has been found inscribed

D ESCVLAP
P VIBOLEIVS
SECVNDVS
ARAM
D D

There is a *praefericulum* sculptured on the right side, and on the left a *patera*. The expansion, of course, is *D(e)o Esculapio*. *P(ublius) Viboleius Secundus, Aram D(omi)ni D(at)*. It is the fifth dedication to Aesculapius found in Britain, so far as recorded.

W. THOMPSON WATKIN.

NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

MR. HUBERT HERKOMER will deliver his inaugural lecture as Slade Professor at Oxford, on Wednesday, November 18.

MR. PERCY GARDNER has been re-elected to the Disney Professorship of Archaeology at Cambridge.

THE University of Cambridge has made a grant of £100, from the Worts travelling scholars' fund, to Mr. Ernest A. Gardner to enable him to undertake archaeological research at Naukratis in conjunction with Mr. Petrie. We understand that Prof. Sayce will also, for a short time, make one of the party.

THE Standing Counsel to the University of Oxford has given an opinion that the delegates of the common fund, though not empowered to make a grant of money to the proposed school of archaeology at Athens, may yet found scholarships tenable there.

THE STAGE.

MISS CALHOUN, the young and gifted American lady, whose impersonation of Dora last summer in "Diplomacy" is yet fresh in the memory of all who witnessed that delightful performance, has just come back to us. Having left these shores on August 23, Miss Calhoun re-embarked for England after a brief stay of only five weeks in her Californian home, and landed at Liverpool on Sunday last, November 1. Her re-appearance on the London boards may be looked for about the end of this year, or early in January. That she will be warmly welcomed is very certain.

MR. BUCHANAN'S drama, "Alone in London," was produced at the Olympic Theatre on Monday, and met with an emphatic, if not an unqualified, success. It contains little or nothing that is new to the stage, but the material is cleverly handled. The lines of drawing, both as to plot and character, are broad and bold, without any pretence of subtlety. One scene, the last of the second act, is vigorously wrought up to a climax of pathos and some power; and another scene, comprising the whole of the last act, is skillfully constructed to build up the interest to the fall of the curtain. But better than either of these is the first scene of the sluice houses in the third act. This is really a powerful piece of dramatic writing, and it was powerfully acted. The manipulation of the forged note and the business of the lamp is as ingenious in its way as the famous chapter in *Les Misérables*, in which the villains in the garret become the instruments of their own ruin. Other scenes in Mr. Buchanan's play are less to our taste. Many passages of the dialogue are strongly written, but as literature the play is certainly not strong. Probably the author did not wish it to be so. The acting was admirable from first to last: Miss Roselle was impassioned; Miss Harriet Jay most picturesque and pathetic; Mr. Standing manly and effective; and Mr. Boyne as full of humour as of genuine tragic passion.

MUSIC.

RECENT CONCERTS.

A "SPECIAL GRAND" concert was given last Thursday week at Covent Garden Theatre. Mesdames Valleria and Trebelli and Mr. Santley sang light and sentimental songs, which, to use a hackneyed phrase, "brought down the house." Mme. Norman Néruda played with her usual charm and finish two movements from Mendelssohn's ever-popular Violin Concerto. An overture entitled "Peveril of the Peak" was performed for the first time. Mr. E. H. Thorne, with this composition, won the prize of twenty-five guineas offered by Mr. W. H. Thomas, and awarded by Mr. E. Prout. The overture is not a very striking piece of music, but it contains much which testifies to the composer's ability, and also to his diffidence. The encouragement thus given to native musicians to write is worthy of note. We refer not so much to the money stimulus as to the ever-increasing chances of getting their works produced.

Antonin Dvorak's Symphony No. 2 in D minor was performed last Saturday afternoon at the Crystal Palace. This work, produced last April at one of the Philharmonic Society's concerts, under the composer's direction, is not a *pièce de occasion* easily applauded and easily forgotten, but a combination of genius and labour, of which time alone can test the character and strength. A symphony, if made of the true stuff, will be none the worse—nay all the better—for keeping. And so far as we can judge of this one of Dvorak's after two hearings, it will keep a long time, and each fresh performance will strengthen

past impressions and reveal new beauties. The quaint thoughts, the unexpected changes of rhythm, the bold harmonies, the varied tone-painting, will gradually become familiar to us; but, no longer dazzled by novelty, we shall be better able to estimate the work at its true value. It is pleasant in this age of mushroom celebrity to meet with a man who writes for the future rather than the present. The symphony, splendidly performed under Mr. Manns' direction, was well received. Signorina Gemma Luziani made her first appearance, and was heard in Mendelssohn's G minor Concerto. She rendered the music with neatness and decision, and bids fair to become an excellent player. Mr. W. Winch was the vocalist, and his pleasing voice and graceful style of singing secured for him much applause. A graceful romance from the *Serenade in G* for strings, by Mozart; the "Oberon" overture, and Sullivan's "Merchant of Venice" music completed the programme.

The first concert of the season of the Borough of Hackney Choral Association was held last Monday at the Town Hall, Shoreditch. The programme commenced with Schubert's Mass in F. This work, written by a youth of only seventeen years of age, has justly been regarded as one of the most wonderful specimens of the precocity of genius. The choral singing was exceedingly good, especially in the "Cum sancto spiritu," which, by the way, was taken at somewhat more than *allegro vivace* pace. A little fault could be found here and there with the performance, but the time at disposal for rehearsal with band scarcely admits of perfection. In the second part of the concert was given Mr. Prout's dramatic cantata, "Alfred," written a few years ago specially for the society. Choir and band were heart and soul in the work, and the performance was—so far as these and the conductor were concerned—entirely satisfactory. The solo vocalists were Miss Clara Leighton, Mr. Selwyn Graham, and Mr. J. Bridson. The lady sang with taste and great purity of intonation, but with the gentlemen there were moments when one had to accept the will for the deed. The hall was well filled, and the audience enthusiastic.

We need not speak in detail about the second Richter concert last Tuesday evening. There was no novelty in the programme—for the Andante and variations in D minor for strings and horns, by Mozart, can scarcely count as such. The performance of the Love-Duet from "Die Walküre," by Madame Valleria and Mr. E. Lloyd, was exceedingly fine. Brahms' Symphony in D received a most careful rendering from Herr Richter, who, by the way, used a score. Beethoven's "Leonora," No. 2, opened the concert. The tone of the strings still seems to us to lack tone.

The performance of Gounod's "Mors et Vita" for the first time in London at the Albert Hall last Wednesday evening naturally attracted a large audience. Mr. Barnby took many of the movements at a quicker rate than Herr Richter; and although perhaps less in accordance with the composer's *tempi*, we think the change in most cases an improvement. The Dies Irae, the Lacrymosa, and the Judex movements, however, were certainly too fast. Of the work itself we have nothing new to say. We doubt whether it will prove as great a success as the "Redemption," although from a purely musical point of view it is in our opinion, superior. Mme. Albani and Messrs. Lloyd and Santley were all in excellent voice. Miss Hilda Wilson, who sang in place of Mme. Patey, was very successful. The choir had a fine opportunity of distinguishing itself, and of this it took full advantage. Mr. Barnby conducted throughout with the utmost care.

J. S. SHEDLOCK.

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